

# THE GATEWAY

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## Strathcona federal election candidates take to Horowitz



PETE YEE

**DUKING IT OUT, DEMOCRACY-STYLE** Edmonton-Strathcona federal election candidates Linda Duncan (NDP), Kevan Hunter (Marxist-Leninist), Rahim Jaffer (Conservative), Claudette Roy (Liberal), and Jane Thrall (Green) partake in a heated debate Monday night over hot-button issues on the campaign trail, including postsecondary education, environmental sustainability, and the US and Canadian economies.

JENNIFER HUYGEN  
Senior News Editor

JONATHAN TAVES  
News Staff

The federal election campaign trail found its way to the University of Alberta campus last night as candidates running for office in Edmonton-Strathcona locked horns on a wide range of issues during the Federal Election All-Candidates Forum, hosted by the Students' Union.

Speaking to a small but verbose

audience at the Myer Horowitz Theatre, the five candidates running in the University's riding—Rahim Jaffer from the Conservative Party, Liberal Claudette Roy, New Democratic Party representative Linda Duncan, Jane Thrall from the Green Party, and Kevan Hunter of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada—answered prepared questions and questions from the audience on topics ranging from postsecondary education to taser guns.

With partisan rhetoric flying high throughout the forum, debate began

with a focus on the current economic situation in the United States and its implications on Canada.

"We've got challenges that are going to spill over from the US economy. I don't think we're going to see the same problems emerge here in Canada because our fundamentals economically are sound," explained Rahim Jaffer, the incumbent MP.

The debate moderator, SU Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham, soon moved the discussion onto the subject of federal involvement in the

postsecondary education system, allowing candidates to explain their views on the increased costs of academic materials and needs for low income students.

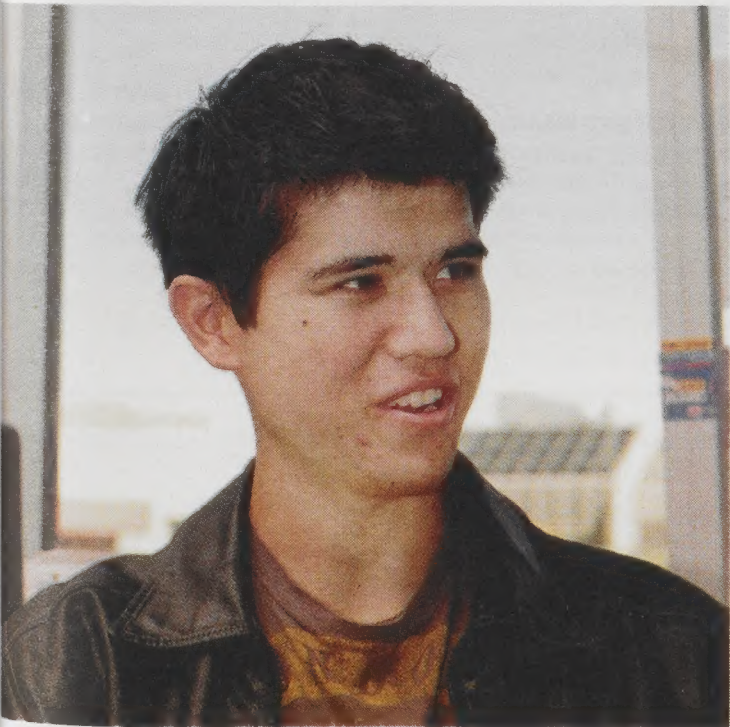
"We will also table a postsecondary education act which would require, and would provide, accountability for federal transfers to the provinces, where it set specifically the amount of money that would go to Alberta, and that it has to be spent on reducing tuition, reporting, and accountability," Linda Duncan noted.

The Green Party explained that they would waive 50 per cent of student loan costs upon graduation, while Hunter discussed his party's views on universal, free education. Roy, who delivered most of her remarks from a prepared script, also talked about proposed Liberal spending on education.

"We want to go about [addressing] the irrelevant tax credits—which we're going to replace—[and add] the \$5000 in student loans regardless of parental income," Roy stated.

PLEASE SEE FORUM • PAGE 4

## Record-breaking number of votes cast in Students' Union by-election



KIRSTEN GORUK  
Deputy News Editor

An increase from 621 voters last year to 636 in this year's Students' Union by-election might not seem like any huge accomplishment, but those extra 15 are contributing to a record-breaking voter turnout.

With fewer candidates to choose from and minor publicity for the by-election, SU Chief Returning Officer Patrick Wisheu described his lack of expectation in seeing any actual increase in votes.

"It was a record-breaking voter turnout, and especially surprising and impressive as there was very little campaigning done this year. This year, two candidates made posters," Wisheu explained.

Sean Wallace, one of the newly elected Science councillors, wasn't one of those two candidates.

"Actually, I didn't campaign at all. There were two of us running for three Science councillor seats. It's sort of surprising that they reduced the

number of Council seats, but they still haven't filled them," Wallace noted.

While two seats remain unfilled on Council, one for Science and one for Open Studies, the success of this by-election has been measured in votes tallied, and Wisheu attributes most of the credit to the SU's implementation of online voting.

Despite encountering a few issues and having to resort back to an older version of online voting, students were still able to perform their civic duty from the comfort of their own home. The final numbers show that approximately 88 per cent of votes cast were done so on computers not associated with polling stations.

"I think it definitely made a huge difference. With 20 per cent of the votes coming from the polling stations [...] I would see a lot of people come up and see that it was just a computer at the polling station and say 'Oh, I can just do it online? I'll just do it from home then,'" Wisheu recalled.

The Faculty of Science led the vote

participation count with 191 votes cast, with Arts trailing in at second with 131, and Engineering a close third, bringing in 116 votes. Along with online voting, Wisheu is confident that there are other strategies that could continue the rising trend in voter turnout.

"In future years, I'll be recommending a greater promotion of the by-election and more advertising throughout campus as well as trying to have the candidates campaign more—that's the largest way to inform people about the by-election," he said.

SU President Janelle Morin echoes Wisheu's sentiment and she suggests that certain steps can be taken before an election even begins that might induce more students to get out and vote.

"I think the first thing is that we have to maintain relevance. We have to be talking about issues that students care about and bringing them forward to students in referenda," Morin explained.

PLEASE SEE VOTE • PAGE 3

### Inside

News	1-4
News Feature	5
Opinion	6-9
A&E	11-14
Sports	15-17
Comics	18
Classifieds	19



### On their way up

Meet the U of A's best and brightest as they're honoured during the Celebration of Teaching and Learning

NEWS FEATURE, PAGE 5



### On their way out

Conal Pierse lays out why the broke fat-cats on Wall Street got exactly what they deserved

OPINION, PAGE 7



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Suite 3-04  
Students' Union Building  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6G 2J7

Telephone 780.492.5168  
Fax 780.492.6665  
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700  
Email gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

editorialstaff

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Mike Kendrick  
eic@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.5168

**MANAGING EDITOR** Conal Pierse  
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6654

**SENIOR NEWS EDITOR** Jennifer Huygen  
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7308

**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR** Kirsten Goruk  
deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664

**OPINION EDITOR** Cody Civiero  
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6661

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR** Jonn Kmech  
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7052

**SPORTS EDITOR** Nick Frost  
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6652

**PHOTO EDITOR** Pete Yee  
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6648

**DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR** Kelsey Tanasiuk  
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6663

**ONLINE EDITOR** Lucas Wagner  
online@gateway.ualberta.ca | 248.1509

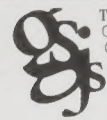
businessstaff

**BUSINESS MANAGER** Ashleigh Brown  
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669

**AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE** Patrick Cziolek  
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6700


**AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Lisa Lunn  
design@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6647

**CIRCULATION PAL** Ramin Ostad  
**CIRCULATION PAL** Teea Gergely  
circulation@gateway.ualberta.ca



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contributors

Matt Pretty, Arah Slack, Mike Otto, Simon Yackulic, Elliot Goodine, Sarah Stead, Kristina De Guzman, Ian Phillipchuk, Hasnain Khan, Aaron Yeo, Paul "Cake Farts" Blinov, Brennan Murphy, Sam Brooks, Evan "Clutch" Daum, Veronica Lednicki, Lance Mudryk, Evan Mudryk, Jeff Martin, Rory Fidler, Eric Chiang, Antony Ta, Jonathan Taves, Claudine Champion

Release of Arts report intended to spark internal dialogue

KIRSTEN GORUK  
Deputy News Editor

While the rest of the University of Alberta celebrates the past 100 years, the Faculty of Arts is taking great strides to improving the future with the release of their report, "Arts in the 21st Century: a critical dialogue."

Included in the document, which was released during an Arts Faculty Council meeting on 18 September, are a number of recommendations aimed at further developing the Faculty into a well-recognized and revered facet of the U of A.

"[This report] is about shifting from a defensive perspective on the Faculty of Arts and feeling that it's been undervalued and underfunded to really recognizing, affirming, and building on its value within the University and within society at large," explained Dr Daphne Read, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Student Services) with the Faculty of Arts.

When the need for the report was identified a year ago, the initiative's timeline was set and a consultation progress began. As Dr George Pavlich, one of four authors on the project explained, anyone who wished to provide feedback on the Faculty was given the opportunity.

"We basically established a website and set up various processes for people to consult with us—give us ideas and input. We then coordinated a whole series of dialogues," Pavlich said.

"It was intended to be a reflective discussion on ourselves, where we're heading and where we've come from—where we're going."

The Collective Body for Arts Students (CBAS) provided a great deal of support and feedback throughout the creative process. They were quick to grab hold of the chance to speak up about their faculty.

"It seemed like an opportune time to assess where the faculty is going and with all of the centennial celebrations, there seemed like there was no good



REPORTING BACK Leah Trueblood is satisfied with the finished product of the "Arts in the 21st century" critical dialogue.

reason to not be really self-aware and to examine. As the report notes, there is a lot of hope and pent-up potential that the Faculty of Arts wants to get out there," noted Leah Trueblood, a CBAS board member.

Trueblood recalled that the consultation process caught the attention of scholars from all over the world and that the end result reflects the effort of everyone involved. Dr Carl Amrhein, U of A Provost and Vice President (Academic), agrees.

"I think it's very impressive, the extent of the discussions that have taken place within the faculty. George Pavlich and his team did a very thorough job. It is time in the University's history to take good careful look at all of our arts, humanities, and social programs," Amrhien said.

Among the recommendations, which range from an increase in scholarship funding to providing better support for Faculty members, is a proposal for a Centenary

Institute for the Arts—a legacy that would bring together arts research with other faculties and forge international links.

The University's central administration will be most involved with that process, while the other issues fall to the responsibility of the Faculty itself.

"The President and I met with the Arts [Faculty] Council last week and we challenged [them] to come forward with something with more detail and we've promised to take it very seriously and do everything we can to bring it to reality as quickly as possible," Amrhein explained.

According to Read, feedback and follow-up from the report are already taking place and the response has shown a dedication to seeing positive change.

"Faculty of Arts members have a real hunger to be involved in substantive discussions of the direction that the Faculty is going," she said.

As for what students should take away from the report's release, Trueblood is confident that the recommendations reflect the interests of Arts students.

"I think that they should take away that the recommendations really do address the concerns that we tried to bring forward. I think their participation was very receptive, and I think it was a very undergraduate-student-friendly process," she explained.

Trueblood went on to say that both her involvement with CBAS and the experience of consulting on the report have shown her that Arts students' voices matter.

"I think people really do want to know what students think. I think there's a desire and a total fascination with students' wants," she concluded.

A year from now, the committee, along with Amrhein and the Dean of Arts Dr Daniel Woolf, will reconvene to review the progress made on the recommendations.

CAMPUS  
CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Mike Otto

REVENGE 2.0

On 27 September, Lister Hall staff called Campus Security to assist in the removal of an intoxicated student previously banned from the property. The student gave the fake name "John Smith," refused to leave when asked by CSS, and tried to

escape arrest. After a short foot-chase, he was caught, given a ticket for public intoxication, and sent home in the back of one of 5-0's cruisers.

The next morning, the offender posted obscene remarks on the Facebook page of a Lister staff member. Numerous Code of Student Behaviour charges are pending.

POP GO THE PINCHERS

Also on 27 September, an Auxiliary Officer saw two male students stealing delicious soda-pop through the gate of a closed business. The two were busted

for the petty crime and are known to Campus Security for various other infringements, mostly alcohol-related. Code of Student Behaviour charges are pending.

BABY GOT BACK INJURIES

In the early morning hours of 28 September, Campus 5-0 and an ambulance were called to Lister Hall after receiving a report of a female student that fell and hit her head. It was determined that she had tried to jump on the back of a male student and ended up falling and injuring her ribs and back.

She was transported by ambulance to the hospital for assessment. Campus Security has yet to determine if alcohol was a contributing factor.

SHOULDN'T YOU GUYS BE PLAYING ROCK BAND 2 OR SOMETHING?

Shortly after midnight on 29 September, a Lister resident reported seeing four drunk students messing up cars in the lot south of Lister Hall. Reportedly, they were taking unlocked bikes from the racks and ramming them into vehicles. When Campus 5-0 arrived the perpetrators had split the scene.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Lucas Wagner and Kelsey Tanasiuk



David Beyer  
Science II



Thrasso Petras  
MFA I



Ayesha Herian  
Biology II



Jeff Dusterhoff  
Engineering II

I found out I had a psych midterm this week.

There are finals on top of Corbett Hall, and you know what they look like? [I don't know.] Butt plugs. So, all the kids are calling it "the Plug" now.

I was having yogurt the other day, and I thought I had no more yogurt left, but then I looked in like ten minutes later, and I'm like, "Oh my god, there's yogurt left!"

We found a stash of porn from the previous renters in our basement that we never knew about, over the weekend. They had "Monsters of Cunt," so that was pretty gross. We immediately put it back in the cupboard and will never look at it again.



# U of A tackles climate change with democracy SU plans to continue to encourage student vote

Experts from all over the globe met in Edmonton to discuss the issue of environmental sustainability

JENNIFER HUYGEN  
Senior News Editor

As the problem of climate change becomes more pervasive in the public consciousness, University of Alberta representatives are joining forces with experts around the world to find novel solutions for how citizens can and should be dealing with the issue of environmental sustainability.

Between 25–29 September, participants representing government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry, and academics from as far away as Australia and the United Kingdom took to the Telus Centre for the Collaborative Workshop on Deliberative Democracy and Climate Change.

The event served as a cross-partisan initiative designed to discuss and create new mechanisms to increase public participation and democratic deliberation in the context of climate change.

**"More of this work has been local [rather] than provincial or federal, and that's why an issue like climate change, which of course is a global issue, is both exciting and also kind of scary."**

MATT LEIGHNINGER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON  
DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY CONSORTIUM

"We decided we wanted to bring together experts to talk to each other about how climate change is different, how you adapt to particular contexts, but then we also decided we can't have that conversation in the abstract—we need to have it with the community," explained Dr David Kahane, an associate professor in the department of political science and principal convener of the project.

"So we decided to [come] to Alberta—which is kind of ground zero in Canada or North America for

carbon emissions—and talk to people from all parts of the system about what needs to be different and how citizens could help to change it."

The workshop focused around meetings of three main collaborative groups—a lead group of 20 participants responsible for devising a deliberation strategy for Alberta, an Albertan sounding board to provide feedback on proposals, and the broader Albertan public.

While discussing climate change, each group had the opportunity to discuss how to solve the problem from a democratic and participatory viewpoint. As Kahane noted, deliberative democracy is the first step to a complicated problem.

"Deliberative democracy is, I think, in some ways a reaction to the way in which politics as usual has become—vote once every four years; if you get more involved than that, join an interest group and lobby for your interests by any means necessary," he said.

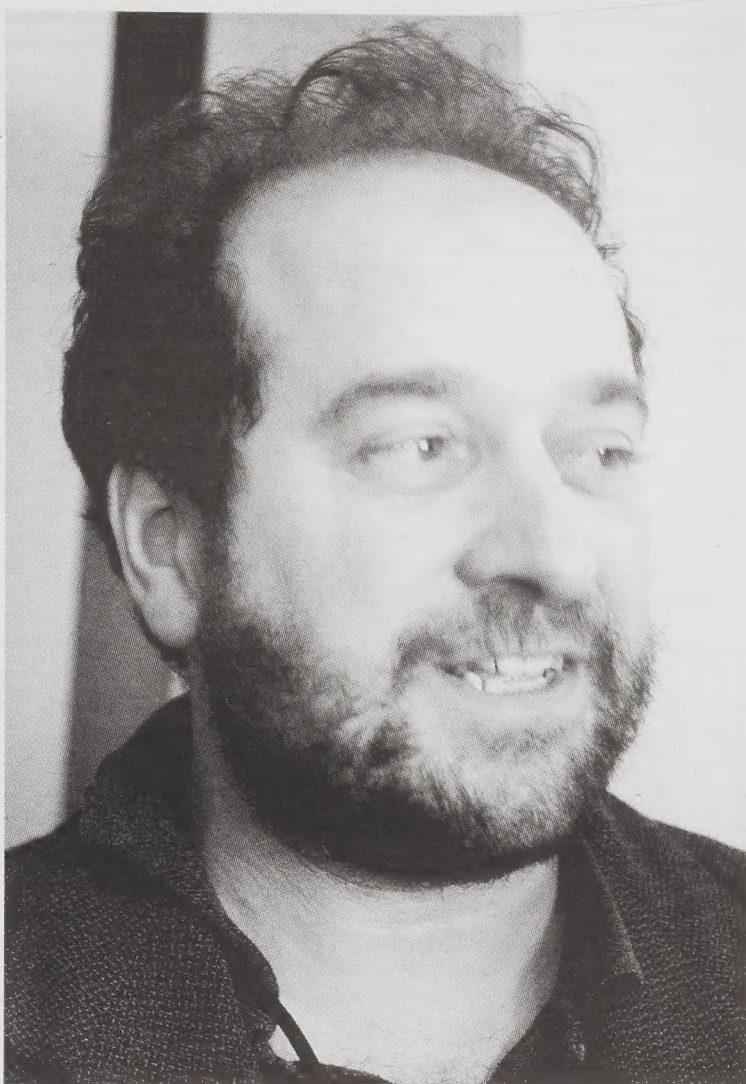
"There's really an absence of spaces where people can talk across their differences, and where they can do that in a way that involves listening as well as standing on a soapbox."

According to Matt Leighninger, executive director of the Washington-based Deliberative Democracy Consortium and a participant in the conference, citizen engagement in sectors like education, land use planning, and economic development have been shown to work in the past, albeit mostly at a local or grassroots level.

"More of this work has been local [rather] than provincial or federal, and that's why an issue like climate change, which of course is a global issue, is both exciting and also kind of scary when you talk about trying to deal with it," he said.

Leighninger was joined on the lead team by Alice Casey, research manager of Involve UK, a think-tank focused on civic engagement, who cited some differences in the deliberation process between Canada and her home in the UK.

"In the UK there's a strong support for the government for doing sort of more deliberative and innovative ways of engaging citizens to make better decisions," she said.



**GOING GREEN** Dr David Kahane was on hand for the discussion surrounding issues of environmental sustainability and climate change in Alberta this past week.

Casey hopes that by the end of the weekend, the group will be able to come up with a plan to echo progress that has been taking place in Europe.

"I think what I would like to see is some concrete outcomes and to communicate what's going on here in a way that everybody can understand, and to sort of get to grips with the fact that there are new ways of engaging, and that citizens can have a voice and it can mean something," Casey noted.

The results of the weekend conference will be recorded in podcast and report form for general accessibility through the Public deliberation on climate change in Alberta website ([climateconversation.ning.com](http://climateconversation.ning.com)).

Kahane encourages students and the community alike to become informed on the issue, especially considering the unique nature of the event that was staged.

"We do a whole lot of public talking in Alberta—public consultations, multi-stakeholder deliberations—it's not like this is the first time anyone thought of the idea that we need to get citizens talking," he said.

"I think to have that planned by such a diverse group, convened by someone that's not partisan, because we're a pretty cross-partisan organizing group, and oriented towards action is actually a new thing in Alberta."

VOTE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She went on to say that through re-evaluation of SU practices, such as online voting, students are more likely to get involved in elections.

"We have to be continually staying on top of the mindset of students and following the trends of engagement, trying to continue being meaningful by always re-evaluating our systems and how they make sense for students," she said.

One of those alterations may soon come in the form of changes to the SU's bylaw 100, which among other things, dictates the minimum number of councillors that must be present on Council's roster. Last year, when Students' Council numbers were reduced from 42 seats to 32, bylaw 100 remained untouched.

"When Council size was reduced, that bylaw should have been changed in tandem with those changes. It didn't happen, for whatever reason, and that was an issue from last year that sort of carried forward," Morin explained.

The situation now is stable, but if one councillor were to resign, the SU would be forced to call an emergency by-election. With this in mind, when Students' Council meets tonight at 6pm, bylaw 100 is slated on the agenda for discussion.

"As of yet, we're not in violation of it, but we will be looking at it so that it proportionally represents itself the way it's supposed to," Morin said.

"We'll also be looking for ways to address the issue of getting students involved so that we don't have to ever resort to those measures. It's still an issue for us if we have even one seat that's vacant."

For newly appointed Councillor Wallace, the empty seats on Council surprise him.

"I find it strange that more people aren't trying to join the Students' Union. I don't know how well publicized they are, but I think it's a great opportunity that most people aren't taking advantage of."



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## GSJS SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 2 October, 2008 at 6pm in the Gateway Office  
3rd Floor, Students' Union Building

The purpose of this meeting will be to elect the two requisite volunteer representatives for the GSJS Board of Directors. Any member of the GSJS volunteer staff is eligible to run for each position. All GSJS volunteer staff are also eligible to vote.

Voting will occur by preferential secret ballot, and the elected representatives will be notified no later than 24 hours after the voting has closed.

All members (i.e., those with five or more Gateway contributions in the 365 days prior to 2 October and who have registered for membership with a Gateway editor) are asked to attend. If you have made five or more contributions to the Gateway in the 365 days prior to 2 October and would like to become a member, please contact the Editor-in-Chief at [eic@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:eic@gateway.ualberta.ca). This meeting is also open to the public.

For more information, including the requirements of the position, please contact Gateway Editor-in-Chief Mike Kendrick at [eic@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:eic@gateway.ualberta.ca)

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# Renewal of federalism afoot in QC

ARAH SLACK  
News Writer

The ongoing requests for freedoms of self-governance and recognition of Quebec's unique place within Confederation are nothing new. Yet emerging possibilities for a federalist ethic in Quebec law schools and academic institutions are brewing, according to Dr Guy Laforest, who delivered the University of Alberta's 20th Annual McDonald Constitutional Lecture on 25 September.

Laforest, a professor of law at Université Laval in Quebec City, presented his views during a speech entitled "What Federalism Means in Quebec" to a small audience in the Law Center last Thursday.

A former president of the Action Démocratique du Québec (ADQ), Laforest now sees a new vision of federalism taking shape in Quebec, particularly in Montreal, flowing from the province's academic dialogues.

"I believe that there is [...] a rich federalist renewal going on in Quebec [...] in French and in English," he said.

With particular relevance to the pending election, Laforest emphasized the need for a renewed look at the Canadian constitution, explaining that there needs to be a "rebalancing between self-rule and shared rule" defining the relationship between the federal and provincial governments.

**"I believe that there is [...] a rich federalist renewal going on in Quebec [...] in French and in English."**

**GUY LAFOREST**  
PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

"[It's] a system of government envisioning a shared sovereignty, in which both levels can act, and both are protected in writing," Laforest explained.

In his definition of federalism, Laforest emphasized the concept of balance, and how this needs to be struck between provincial autonomy and interdependence within the greater structure of Canada.

"Canadian federalism at its best provides Quebec with a substantial degree of political freedom, while preserving and promoting identity; it fosters autonomy, and offers an authentic form of recognition," he said.

Yet, as he explained, the new school of federalism in Montreal has extended a self-critique of Quebec's tradition of perceiving themselves as being "radically different."

To further this positive re-interpretation of the Canadian constitution, Laforest identified a universal need to surpass the adversarial debate historically characteristic between French and English Canada.

"We have to move beyond the language of re-conquest and conquest [...] [into] a humanist language of concord, responsibility," he said.

"Much of these things have to do with a re-balancing in a context of multiple identities, fostering greater trust and loyalty, attempting to re-balance some of the pillars of the Canadian constitutional order."

Laforest also found this mood beginning to be used in the attempts to re-define the meaning of federalism in Quebec, and being advocated by present political figures like Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal leader Stéphane Dion.

"As federalists who aspire to govern

the whole of Canada, Mr Dion and Mr Harper have a lot in common—maybe more than we think," Laforest said.

"Political theory and comparative institutional studies tell us that federalism is always a balancing act between unity and diversity, self-rule/shared rule, autonomy on the one side, solidarity and participation on the other."

According to Laforest, there are many similarities between Harper and Dion with regards to supporting Quebec's federalist renewal, with the current Prime Minister being vocal about fostering a "Federalism of Openness" in Quebec.

"The current Prime Minister of Canada, Mr Stephen Harper, has undeniably struck a chord in Quebec by adopting the doctrine of federalism in the last year."

Yet Laforest tempers the future of

these political ideals with an awareness of present challenges.

"You could say there is a constitutional fatigue in Canada. There is, in Quebec, beyond that constitutional fatigue, a kind of political fatigue, that engulfs the sovereignty movement in Quebec," Laforest warned.

He mentioned consequences like political cynicism, a contempt of nationalism in the new generation, and avoidance of societal obstacles as outcomes of this fatigue. These are obstacles Laforest thinks will hinder Quebec's new political vision of federalism.

"So there are a number of mounting challenges for Quebecers in the early 21st century, and it is that context a number of people are re-considering the place that the federal government has had and dominated in the provincial state."

# Candidates answer to voters

FORUM • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The environment was an issue repeatedly addressed in both the prepared questions round and the audience participation portion, with opposition parties taking an aggressive stance on combating climate change. Duncan joined the foray by enunciating her party's proposal to stop all new approvals in the oilsands, while Thrall explained the Green Party's platform of a carbon tax and cap and trade system.

"What we've done that's different is put our carbon tax at \$50 per tonne, and combine it with a cap and trade, and none of the other parties use a combination of the two," Thrall explained.

Hunter echoed these sentiments, citing an overexpansion of Alberta's oil and gas industry.

"[The tar sands] are being set up in a way that will lead to nothing down

the road. We have all of this construction, all of this building and expansion, but once all these plans are built and our oilsands are shipped south it's over," he said.

The audience Q&A session saw long lineups of students and community members loudly voicing their concerns on current government policies with Jaffer on the defence for much of the evening, particularly on the topics of foreign workers and recently announced cuts to arts funding.

"One of the things to be clear on the arts groups, and I know I'm not going to have a lot of support in this room but ultimately, what we've tried to do is streamline," he explained.

With long lines of constituents still eager to ask questions, the forum came to a close, as candidates took a final opportunity to sway students in Strathcona to their side come voting day on 14 October.

A federal general election is taking place on October 14, 2008.

## New identification rules to vote!

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e.g.: driver's licence

OR

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e.g.: health card and hydro bill

OR

Swear an oath and be vouched for by an elector who is on the list of electors in the same polling division and who has an acceptable piece or pieces of identification.  
e.g.: a neighbour, your roommate

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- Provincial/Territorial Identification Card
- Canadian Passport
- Certificate of Indian Status
- Certificate of Canadian Citizenship or Citizenship Card
- Credit/Debit Card with elector name
- Canadian Forces Identity Card
- Veterans Affairs Canada Health Card
- Employee Card issued by employer
- Old Age Security Identification Card
- Public Transportation Card
- Student ID Card
- Library Card
- Liquor Identification Card
- Canadian Blood Services/Héma-Québec Card
- Fishing Licence
- Wildlife Identification Card
- Hunting Licence
- Firearm Acquisition Card/Firearm Possession Card
- Outdoors Card and Licences
- Local Community Service Centre Card (CLSC)

#### ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS (containing name and address)

- Credit Card Statement
- Bank Statement
- Utility Bill (residential telephone, cable TV, public utilities commission, hydro, gas or water)
- Attestation of Residence issued by the responsible authority of an Indian band or reserve
- Local Property Tax Assessment
- School, College or University Report Card or Transcript
- Residential Lease, Residential Mortgage Statement or Agreement
- Canada Child Tax Benefit Statement
- Income Tax Assessment Notice
- Insurance Policy
- Government Cheque or Government Cheque Stub with elector name
- Statement of Employment Insurance Benefits Paid (T4E)
- Canada Pension Plan Statement of Contributions/Quebec Pension Plan Statement of Participation
- Statement of Old Age Security (T4A) or Statement of Canada Pension Plan Benefits (T4AP)
- Statement of Benefits from provincial workplace safety or insurance board
- Statement of Direct Deposit for provincial works or provincial disability support program
- Vehicle Ownership
- Vehicle Insurance
- Attestation of Residence issued by the responsible authorities (shelters, soup kitchens, student/senior residences, long-term care facilities)
- Letter from public curator

**Note: The pieces of identification required under the Canada Elections Act are not the same as those for provincial or municipal elections.**

The above information is also available in a number of heritage and Aboriginal languages on the Elections Canada Web site at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca).

[www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

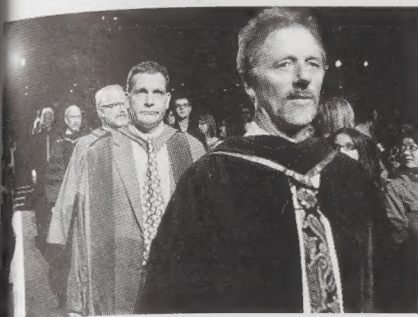
1-800-INFO-VOTE  
1-800-463-6868

TTY 1-800-361-8935  
for people who are deaf or hard of hearing

**Elections Canada**



# THE GIFT OF EDUCATION



On Friday, 26 September, the University of Alberta community convened at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium for the 13th annual Celebration of Teaching and Learning, an event designed to honour the achievement and innovation of 354 students, 20 faculty, and twelve staff. The Gateway was there to bring you some highlights of the accomplishments of U of A undergraduate and graduate students, as well as this year's recipient of the University Cup, the highest faculty honour bestowed on a senior professor each year.

According to Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein, who also served as host, the ceremony is one of the largest of its kind in Canada, and sets a tone for future success.

"In the case of the students, especially the students that are here for the first time, their names will appear frequently as they move through their

academic careers because they probably will receive more recognition, more scholarships," he said.

Among those names are Jan Ulric Garcia, recipient of the \$50 000 President's Centenary Citation, and Amy Klassen, a winner of the J Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Master's).

## JAN ULRIC GARCIA First-year Chemical Engineering \$50 000 President's Centenary Citation

Jan Ulric Garcia shouted for about five minutes upon being informed he was the recipient of the U of A's richest-ever undergraduate scholarship.

"When I opened the letter, I thought it was just another normal notification of an award, like \$1000 or \$2000, but when I opened it, [I thought], 'are they sure they didn't put the comma in the wrong place or something?' It says \$50 000," he reflected.

Garcia, a first-year engineering student, was the recipient of the \$50 000 President's Centenary Citation, a special centennial award that saw the doubling of the prestigious President's Citation—typically valued at \$25 000 over four years.

The award is based primarily on academics,

with Garcia posting an impressive 98.5 per cent average coming out of high school.

Garcia explained that the financial support provided by the scholarship was one major factor that led him to apply to the U of A and move away from his home in Winnipeg, where he settled in 2005 after moving to Canada from the Philippines.

"First of all it has impacted me greatly already, because if I didn't receive this scholarship, I wouldn't have left Winnipeg; I would have stayed there," he said.

Another reason for the relocation was the ability to take his engineering courses in French at Campus Saint-Jean. Garcia, who speaks English, French, and Tagalog, only began learning French three years ago when he arrived in Canada.

"That's one of the main reasons that I chose the U of A. First of all, because the engineering faculty is renowned in Canada, especially for

the chemical engineering, which interests me at the moment," Garcia observed.

"Then secondly, I wanted to continue my study in French, because I know I'm going to lose it [if I don't]."

Besides acing exams, Garcia was an active participant in high-school life once he moved to Winnipeg, serving as Student Council president in his grade twelve year, establishing his own math club, and working with the Asian Heritage Community.

Once he gets fully settled into life in Edmonton, Garcia hopes to get involved in extra-curricular on campus while keeping up his academics. Eventually, he hopes to pursue a career in research.

"I'm interested in research and all the advancement stuff, trying to discover new things to improve everything like the environment [etc]"

Written by Jennifer Huygen  
and Johnathan Taves  
Photographed by Claudine  
Champion, Lauren Stieglitz,  
Sam Brooks and Pete Yee

## AMY KLASSEN Master's of Arts in Sociology \$17 500 J Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Master's)

The road towards receiving the J Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship and the \$17500 price tag that comes along with it began several years ago for Amy Klassen, a Master's student in the department of sociology.

Klassen began work on the background of her Master's thesis in the fall of 2006, while still studying as an undergraduate, and it was her career before that as a teacher that prompted her to look into the topic of labels, and more specifically, stigmas on mental illness.

"My research is on the stigma of mental illness, so I'm looking at how Albertans decide whether they're going to interact with people who have

mental health conditions or not," she explained.

"My first career is in education, so during my teaching career I noticed that there was a real impact that certain kind of labels had on people, on how kids interacted with their peers, how parents interacted with each other and what not.

"So I was interested in labels and labeling theory when I came in [...] I realized that people who have mental health conditions are particularly disadvantaged by the labels they get."

The impetus behind applying for the scholarship came when Klassen and her supervisor were able to put twelve questions about mental health interactions onto the 2007 Alberta Survey, asking a random sampling of people across the province questions ranging from whether they knew people with a mental health condition to whether they would be willing to hire someone

with a mental health condition.

"We're looking at questions of social distance, whether you'd be willing to act in social situations and whether or not how much contact you really do have [effects that]," Klassen noted.

While still working on data analysis, Klassen hopes that her research and the funding provided by her scholarship will allow her to see some tangible results from the study.

"I would like to see whether or not the contact hypothesis actually is a valid argument, that being that the people who have more contact or are more familiar with people who have mental health conditions are indeed less socially rejecting."

In the future, Klassen plans to work in academic institution doing research and teaching.



## DR DAVID MARPLES Professor of History and Classics University Cup winner

This year's University Cup winner hasn't cured cancer or found a solution to medical diseases, but as a professor in the department of history and classics, Dr David Marples has traveled the world and been influential in increasing public knowledge on issues at play in the former Soviet Union and Russia.

"I just felt that, sometimes, with Faculty of Arts nominees, it's a little more difficult for them to get these kind of prizes, because it's not quite so obvious what the value of the work is," Marples says.

"We're not curing cancer or coming up with some great scientific invention, [...] we're more or less thinking or doing analysis of different subjects. I was a bit surprised and I'm very pleased," he explains in response to his receipt of the University's highest teaching award.

Marples' research focuses primarily on the former USSR, Russia, and Belarus, though he originally began studying with a focus on Ukraine following the Second World War. As he explained, his interest in this area of scholarship began during his undergraduate degree in London.

"So I'd done all of British history, I'd done all of European history, but I was still a couple of courses short of graduating. So I did two Russian courses, and I just thought it was the most interesting thing I'd done up to that time."

Marples' experience with Ukraine in particular began while he was working at an American radio station in Munich, Germany, and had been assigned to their Ukrainian research desk, looking at questions of energy and nuclear power. Shortly afterwards, he was invited to the University of Alberta to work as a research associate at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies in 1986.

A few months later, the Chernobyl nuclear disaster took place—an event that brought Marples into the public sphere, despite the fact that he had only just finished his PhD.

"I was probably the only person, in North America at least, who had ever done work on this area before. And so it was a lot of publicity about that, and I got invited to press conferences in New York, that's when I gave a talk at the White House," he says.

With all of his experiences in tow, Marples points to a visit to Chernobyl after the blast and once trying to enter Belarus without a Visa as memories that stand out over his academic career.

"One memorable moment I would say was visiting Chernobyl, because I was scared half to death," he says.

"I was taken to a greenhouse two miles from the destroyed plant, and invited to sample some of the vegetables that were grown there. The manager of the greenhouse took a cucumber and took a bite out of it, and then he gave me one. Well, I wasn't gonna take a bite out of it. And I took a tomato, and decided I would bring it back to Canada to get tested for radiation."

Marples is the author of twelve books and has also edited two more. He speaks English, Ukrainian, and Russian, with books in the latter languages filling the shelves of his office.

While he hopes that the University Cup doesn't necessarily attract more students to his tutelage—he currently supervises seven PhD students—he does emphasize his passion for teaching and the hope that the prestige associated with this award will reflect well on his department.

"I think it's really good for the history and classics department, which has never had a University Cup before, so maybe it will create some interest," he replies.

"I really think [history] can be quite interesting, it just depends how you approach it."





## Student apathy breeds oligarchy

WHEN WE'RE BEING CONSTANTLY BOMBARDED from all sides by the political machine, it can be easy to get lost in the flurry of parties and candidates who want your vote. That's why it's so surprising that, with both the American and Canadian elections on many students' minds, the Students' Union councillor by-elections were met with such apparent success last week.

Ideally, of course, it would be great if enough of the seats were filled so that the by-election wouldn't be necessary. Though the traditional lack of student activism in campus politics make them something of an inevitability, it's a welcome change to find such a record-breaking turnout to fill the vacant seats left in Students' Council and the General Faculties Council (GFC). However, something's rotten in the state of the SU, and it's starting to smell like these elections might not have even been necessary.

Going into the by-election, there were a total of 28 open student seats in the GFC. The GFC serves as the University's legislative body, and gets to make a lot of the important decisions regarding how your tuition money gets spent and what direction University policies will take. So if there are no student voices to represent us, the rest of the councillors are free to approve million-dollar projects like the brick-and-mortar re-branding that the "North Campus" has now received—probably invested from the \$1 million the University has saved by scrapping credit card tuition payment. That's why it's disturbing that, even after 17 of these seats were filled following the by-election, nearly half of those seats have been filled by executive appointment, not the student vote.

That's right. This year's Vice President (Academic) John Braga, who's responsible for chairing the student caucus of the GFC, has hand-picked no fewer than nine representatives of the GFC membership, and plans to fill in the rest in this manner, completely forgoing the electoral process in favour of empowering a roster of his choosing.

Technically speaking, the V-Pac does rightfully have the power to do this, so it's not like Mr Braga has committed an act of mass electoral fraud by any means. In fact, the process surrounding GFC by-elections is mostly a courtesy and a formality, giving a voice to the students to recommend who they'd like to see on the GFC roster. The SU bylaws only stipulate that a single attempt to fill the seats has to be made (the elections in March), so if he so desired, Braga could have hand-picked his own personal army to fill those 28 vacancies.

I'm not questioning the political competence of most of these faces, mind you. Though I may not necessarily agree with a lot of the SU's policies, I'm sure our Academic wizard held a perfectly legitimate process in selecting the new batch. The issue here isn't who's scratching whose back in the roundabout that student politics typically proves itself to be. It's a matter of the structure of the SU's policies, and the resources required to manage them.

Like most things, elections cost money. In the case of by-elections, it costs about \$5000 to organize campaigns, hire poll clerks, tabulate results, and pay the tech guys to ensure that the new online voting system doesn't cannibalize itself and accidentally install Rick Astley as the SU's Grand Dictator. So if the Vice President (Academic) is able to install GFC councillors at his whim, why even bother with the by-elections in the first place? Attempting to fill the empty spots via democracy might seem noble, but at the same time, it's just wasting student resources if there still aren't enough seats filled.

Frankly, I'd like to know what happened to the promotion for the by-elections. Campus is hit with a confetti blast of election posters in March, but the average student likely didn't even know that by-elections were taking place, let alone what they were being held for. Even the students that came out to vote didn't have a complete ballot to look at, considering that even the by-elections didn't receive enough candidates to fill the empty seats. It's certainly a slap in the face of democracy for the SU executive to appoint their own GFC reps, but when nobody steps up the plate, they have to play with who they've got.

MIKE KENDRICK  
Editor-in-Chief



KELSEY TANASIU

## LETTERS

### Thanks for calling out all the slacktivists

Thank you Cody, for saying something I have long believed (re: "Care or don't, but drop the facade," 25 September). This "self-conscious obnoxious assholery" irritates me to no end. I feel sick everytime I see one of these bumper-stickers, tees with political slogans on them, or, as you mentioned, those idiotic Ché shirts.

Doing shit like buying a t-shirt with an anti-consumerist slogan on it, wearing a wrist band or voting for the Green Party is just an easy way for people—University students in particular—to look "cool." Thank you for finally telling these slacktivists to either do something relevant or sit down and shut up.

KEVIN DAY  
Arts I

### Beliefs must earn respect

In response to Sheila Kwasek's letter (re: "Secularism no different from religious preference," 25 September), I would like to address several of her points.

First, the idea that if one does not respect religious beliefs, one can't be described as in favour of tolerance and equality, is nonsense. Religious beliefs shouldn't be respected by default; they should earn respect, like everything else. You wouldn't respect the belief that invisible pink unicorns routinely stampede down HUB. Does that mean you're intolerant of the unicorn believers? No, you just think that they are wrong, that's all.

Second, she notes that Canada doesn't have separation of church

and state, like the US does, but "more of a notion that one religion should not be given preference or predominance in a public institution." What's the difference? It seems she is arguing semantics here.

Then she claims that forcing secular ideals is somehow no better than forcing religious ideals. This too, is nonsense. Religious ideals demand belief in some diety for which we have no evidence. Secular ideals are, by definition, universally inclusive. If you want to augment your secular ideals with religious ideals, you're free to, and the rest of us are free not to. Indeed, it's difficult to see how secular ideals could not be a fundamental part of freedom itself. If you think that it's somehow unfair to promote secular beliefs and values above religious beliefs and values, you're, frankly wrong.

Finally, calling on someone's personal fault, whether real or imagined, in an attempt to discredit their arguments, is entirely unrelated to whether or not their arguments are sound. Sorry, Jesus, better luck next coming.

RYAN BROMSGROVE  
Science II

Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca) (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

## LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Denial of God filled with irrational nonsense and foolish inconsistencies

I should like to comment on your inconsistent article which appeared in last week's Gateway, "Mr Artsman." I find it a little bit difficult to know just where to start on this irrational discourse.

You start off by telling us why you are a non-believer and then, at the end of this most enlightening article, you remind us that you are not denying the existence of a God. I think you omitted to give us your own definition of "God."

Should it be that the omnipotent God helps everyone to reach heaven whether he has earned it or not? So the Christian God is non-existent! According to you, sir, he is not all-merciful, or if he is, he is limited in power and wisdom. Who or what is God? God is an all-perfect being possessing every perfection in an infinite degree. As soon as you mention the word "limited" concerning any being, he cannot be God. If the Christian God is all-merciful, all-wise, and all-powerful, how can he let a poor misguided individual choose the wrong road and go to hell?

You admit, Mr Artsman, do you not, that you have free will? God forbids evil but he does permit it. God is infinitely just, which means that he is absolutely fair, but God is also all-merciful since he is willing to forgive an offender. If everyone went to heaven whether he had led a good life or not, you, sir, would be

one of the first people to argue that God was not all-just.

You say that some Christians believe that there is such a place as hell. I shall go a step further and say that all Christians believe in heaven and hell—if they do not, they are not Christians. If anyone says that he can't accept such an existence as hell, what grounds does he have for accepting the existence of heaven?

I would advise you, Mr Artsman, to understand the definition of all the terms you use when discussing theology—or any subject, for that matter.

I think you are a wee bit confused, Mr Artsman; you do not appear to have a clear conception of God, or is it that you are just prejudiced?

"PLAUTA"  
11 February, 1955

### Not-so-modest praise for not-so-modest topic

Regarding last week's abortion editorial:

Its marvelous satire reminds one of Swift's once famous *A Modest Proposal*.

D KILGANNON  
16 February, 1988

Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.

Now you can check out all the old-timey fun for yourself! Just go to [thegatewayonline.ca](http://thegatewayonline.ca) and follow the links to the Gateway's digital archives. They date all the way back to the Gateway's humble beginnings in 1910.



# Don't cry for the poor Wall Street yuppies

No sympathy owed to bank executives who brought about their own miseries through predatory lending

CONAL  
PIERSE

be fooled. This wasn't an altruistic proposal; nobody was doing anyone a favour by allowing these jackals who dug their own graves through poor lending practices to get away with it scot-free.

What we're hearing are individuals who have made bad decisions refusing to take responsibility for their actions, and essentially trying to pass the buck to the taxpayers. It's funny how quickly Wall Street—these staunch opponents of government intervention—will come running to big brother for help when things turn sour.

They cry wolf because they're in over their heads due to their own bad decisions and risky lending; however, when your regular American comes crying to them with heavy debt and an unfeasible mortgage, their plight is ignored—as evidenced by the skyrocketing foreclosure rates, which saw nearly 1.3 million slipping into some stage of foreclosure of their property in 2007, up 79 per cent from 2006.

And yet, these are the people that are being asked to foot the bill. They are supposed to grin and bear the weight of their own debts while shelling out the money so that the rich stay rich—the trickle down effect of the wealthy elite pissing on the common man.

Of course, these taxpayers aren't free of fault. Those greedy snakes are just as much to blame for the present financial situation; after all, they fell for the sub-prime mortgage trick.

**It's funny how quickly Wall Street—these staunch opponents of government intervention—will come running to big brother for help when things turn sour.**

They listened to professionals who sold them the moon, giving them more money than their property was worth so that they'd have more capital available to them at a reduced rate. Sure, this interest rate would eventually increase, but by then their financial situation would have drastically changed. After all, in two years' time, those with poor credit ratings and dead-end jobs always manage to persevere and come out on top, and if not, well, that's just the invisible hand at work.

While the American economy has

taken some serious blows recently, they were right to reject this proposal. This crash has been a long-time coming, and the solution will likewise take time. The bailout plan was an ill-conceived strategy hastily thrown together in the wake of a crisis. It benefited the few at the cost of the many, and removed all blame from those who were directly responsible.

The banks put a gun to their head and over-dramatized the cost of inaction, and congress was right to look them dead in the eye and call their bluff, because for all their predictions of catastrophe and ruin, they failed to mention to the public that this financial meltdown wasn't one shared by all—it was to the detriment of wealthy investors and bankers.

The fact remains that something needs to be done to combat the economic crisis that's coming to a head, but it needs to be a plan that helps all Americans.

Taking the high-risk option is how Wall Street likes to operate, but when you're playing with the future of an entire country, you can't afford to gamble without first considering the alternatives. Trying to make the quick buck is what got them into this mess in the first place, and using that same kind of logic isn't going to bail them out.

## THE BURLAP SACK

This beating goes out to everybody who's still laughing off Sarah Palin as a joke candidate—for the love of what's good, stop it. She's clearly unqualified to hold such an important position, but there's a very real chance that Palin could become vice president of Canada's biggest trading partner.

Despite her faltering support, McCain won't remove her from the Republican ticket. To deem her a bad choice after all would be a serious blow to the confidence he's trying to convey.

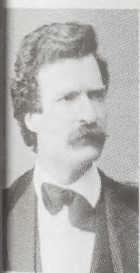
Besides, Palin still has plenty of support, thanks to millions who will vote Republican on God, guns, and gay rights alone, no matter who's on the ticket (a blindness not unique to the Republicans). So she's here to stay. Maybe only until November, or maybe for four years. If that's to be avoided, she needs to be viewed with the same sink-or-swim eyes as everyone else in the election, and examined critically, not just comically.

If we don't start treating Sarah Palin like the politician she's trying to be instead of some babbling punchline, there's going to be a good burlap sack beating for America and beyond. Courtesy of Vice President hockey-mom herself.

PAUL BLINOV

*The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.*

## Who writes for opinion sections?



Mark Twain—the original Jon Stewart—started his writing career in as a humorist for a variety of newspapers.



The father of Gonzo journalism, Hunter S. Thompson, kept tabs on Nixon in *Rolling Stone*.



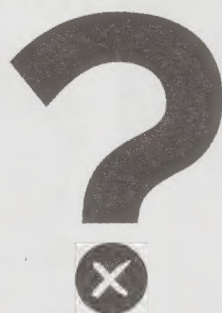
And the written world's biggest badass, Charles Bukowski, wrote a column prior to achieving widespread success as a poet and novelist.

## GATEWAY OPINION:

Sharing common interests with the coolest cats in literary history since 1910.

No prior writing experience necessary. Everybody needs a starting point.

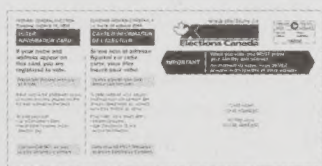
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca



On Tuesday, October 14, vote.

A federal general election is taking place on October 14, 2008.

### Did you receive this card?



Keep the voter information card you received by mail from Elections Canada. It tells you where and when to vote. You'll get through the voting process more quickly if you have it with you.

If you haven't received it, or if you found an error in your name or address, please phone your local Elections Canada office. You'll find the number at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) by clicking on "Voter Information Service".

### Where and when to vote?

#### Advance voting

You can vote before election day. Advance voting will be held Friday, October 3, Saturday, October 4 and Monday, October 6, from noon to 8:00 p.m. Locations of advance polling stations appear on the back of the voter information card.

You can vote by mail or at your local Elections Canada office using the special ballot if you make the request by 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7.

To download the registration form, go to [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) and click on "I'm Mailing My Vote!", or call Elections Canada to obtain the form and information.

### Do you know the new identification rules to vote?

When you vote, you must prove your identity and address.

For the list of acceptable pieces of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, please see the pamphlet you received by mail from Elections Canada or visit [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) and click on "Voter Identification at the Polls".

To vote, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen
- be at least 18 years old on election day
- prove your identity and address

Vote. Shape your world.

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1-800-463-6868

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or 001-800-514-6868 toll-free in Mexico



TTY 1-800-361-8935

for people who are deaf or hard of hearing,  
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613-991-2082 from anywhere in the world





# Don't worry, you're not too late.



**The Gateway welcomes  
volunteers all year long.**

**Sports:**

**Tuesdays at 5pm**

**Comics/Illustration:**

**Wednesdays at 5:30pm**

**Opinion:**

**Thursdays at 4pm**

**Arts & Entertainment:**

**Thursdays at 5pm**

**News:**

**Fridays at 3pm**

**Photo:**

**Fridays at 4pm**

**Features:**

**Mondays at 5pm**



AS A PROUD CANUCK, I'D LOVE TO TAP THAT Cheers to beer! The cause of—and solution to—all of life's problems

## Exploring Canada's insatiable obsession with brewski and brewski accessories



AARON  
YEO

"Beer is liquid greatness with a dash of awesome, and most Canadians will agree. From Beertish Columbia to Newfoundlager and Labeerdor, we absolutely adore suds. Even here in Aleberta, it's worshipped as a gift from God, but there's no real reason why the beverage is so important to us Canadians."

Trotting across Quad towards CAB, an acquaintance and I passed a young man wearing a shirt that read "Canadians draft beer, not soldiers." We chuckled for a moment, but then got on with our lives. It wasn't until later that afternoon that one of us brought up a deep, foundation-challenging question that sparked about an hour's worth of conversation: Why is beer such an integral part of Canadian culture?

Now don't get me wrong; I love beer. Beer is liquid greatness with a dash of awesome, and most Canadians will agree. From Beertish Columbia to Newfoundlager and Labeerdor, we absolutely adore suds. Even here in Aleberta, it's worshipped as a gift from God, but there's no real reason why the beverage is so important to us Canadians.

For starters, we have no history with beer. We didn't invent it, nor did we perfect it. Believe it or not, the magic drink has been around for much longer than the Bible—Jesus probably enjoyed his share of ale at his local Hebrewery.

We're not too great at making it, either. Canadian-made beer isn't particularly fantastic. It doesn't taste any more amazing than other beers, and contrary to popular belief, it isn't much stronger either. So there's nothing so special about our brewing skills. We don't even like our own

Canadian beer. Nearly 90 per cent of beer sales in this country are from foreign breweries.

We don't even drink the most, either. According to Swivel.com, the Irish and Germans are beating us handily. But the Czechs make a surprise appearance in first place, drinking more beer per capita than anyone else. Scanning the list, Canada holds its spot at number 19. So we don't do too well in that department.

Some will continue to defend our consumption skill, arguing along the lines of "so those Europeans drink all that beer, but they can't hold it! That's why we rock at beer drinking!" Nay. After a quick survey on campus due to my inability to properly use Google, almost 50 per cent of Canadian students say their capacity is low to almost-average. A whopping nine per cent say they can hold a substantial quantity of beer in their bellies. And that's only what they personally claim.

Canadians don't have an in-depth knowledge of beer either. Also included in my wonderful little survey were a few simple questions. Less than 20 per cent of the students I talked to could name the four primary ingredients of beer—water, hops, malted grain, and yeast. Most could only name one or two. Many refused to accept that malt was made from grains, and only a very intelligent five per cent could define lager, ale, and stout. For a beer-loving

people, we sure as suds don't know a lot about it.

So perhaps it's just part of Canadian manliness. Everything else decidedly Canadian is of a masculine nature—ice hockey, surviving the cold, lumberjack fur trading, Wolverine—need I say more? So bottled manliness fits our assortment of Canadiana quite naturally. I would support the assimilation of pirates into Canadian culture, too, if they weren't so frowned upon in modern society—and I'm talking about the "stealing-shit-on-the-high-seas" variety of pirates, not the at-home-and-cowardly-steal-mustache pirates.

Perhaps it boils down to our constant competition with the United States. Their beer sucks: we can all agree with that. So in a global comparison, we suck at everything beer-related, when looking at the Americans, who dominate. We're perpetually making ourselves different from them, since you can't be shittier at beer than the US, we chose to be better. And better we are.

But in the end, beer is just a part of Canadian life. We love it for an apparent reason, and this is your cue to prance over to your closest licensed merchant and purchase a Canadian beer to enjoy. Remember every time you buy a foreign beer, you're taking food out of Canadian babies' mouths.



# Elections pander to human idiocy

CODY CIVIERO



With two federal elections commencing simultaneously and fighting for headlines, the degree of idiocy any well-informed person is exposed to on a daily basis is more than overbearing—I'm convinced it must be bad for one's mental health.

At this very moment, my mind is corrupted by an exhausting flurry of political ineptitude and daftness. The Canadian election is a three-way orgy of stupidity, with Conservative ads featuring puffins taking dumps on Stéphane Dion, Jack Layton simultaneously blasting gas consumption while arguing for it to be more accessible to poor families, and Dion being too much of a feeble wimp to do anything. Down south, Sarah Palin has been puking verbal diarrhea all over interviewers, Joe Biden has apparently been sabotaging his own campaign, and John McCain and Barack Obama recently traded clichés, vacuities, and question dodges for an infuriating hour and a half.

But the blame for all of this doesn't primarily fall on the candidates, their parties, or the media—it's all a by-product of the mental incompetence of the average member of the voting public; the fatal flaw in the democratic system. Candidates must pander to the

lowest bracket of humanity in order to achieve any degree of sense in elected office. Every new instance of unpunished contradiction, empty rhetoric, and insincerity is another piece of evidence that democracy is ruled by morons.

Voter disillusionment isn't the result of politicians being out of touch with the wishes of the masses: it's the result of them being far too in tune with the desires of the average slack-jawed idiot. They know that lies and false promises aren't just things that they can get away with—they're tactics necessary to the survival of a political career.

**Every new instance of unpunished contradiction, empty rhetoric, and insincerity is another piece of evidence that democracy is ruled by morons.**

The only thing any reasonable person can do is try to have a sense of humour about it, but it no longer seems like a laughing matter. *The Daily Show* isn't a comedy show—it's just the most reliable American news program around, presenting idiocy for what it is. Other networks are hindered by the guise of "objective journalism" in ways that undermine their ability to portray the latent stupidity of the content of their reports.

Even sadder, *Saturday Night Live* ran what was closer to a verbatim reenactment of Sarah Palin's CBS interview than any kind of satire. It wasn't funny, it was just a depressing depiction of the political world in 2008. Palin's vacant, dense stares and mindless nods betray a total lack of comprehension of any of the questions being asked of her. She has a talking point or two to plug out of context, instead of responding to questions. When that fails and she's called on it, she'll essentially concede her own ignorance and promise to be better informed next time. This should be terrifying, but it's somehow been perceived as endearing by certain elements that, for some inexplicable reason, have a say in who governs the most powerful country on earth.

Good luck and best wishes to anyone else who wants to say something about any of this. The people who benefit from stupidity-determined rule have conceived countless methods of suppressing opposition and criticism. Intelligence is one of the most viciously attacked qualities a political candidate or commentator can have in a system dictated by the dumbest spheres of human society.

I wish I could offer a solution, but all evidence indicates that we're doomed beyond belief. The dumbocracy that dictates our lives is firmly entrenched in western culture and isn't going to be reformed any time soon. At this point, all you can do is spoil your ballot, stock up on water, food, and supplies, and try to ride out the upcoming moron-initiated apocalypse.

# US debate signals imperialism as usual

HASNAIN KHAN



The first American presidential debate between Senators Barack Obama and John McCain was an absolute waste of time. A citizen of the world beyond the US, would ask, "what's it got for me?" And the answer is, apparently, "not very much." In terms of foreign policy, both candidates revealed their desire not to focus on striving for a richer, fairer, greener world, but for their shared goal of ensuring American dominance over the globe.

In Obama's world view, you can't be a 21st century superpower (or even power) and invade fledgling democracies. If you do, you're acting like a 20th century dictatorship, and that also makes you a threat to regional peace and security. McCain firmly believes that "Russia committed serious aggression against Georgia." It's quite fair to say that both candidates are in agreement about Russia's recent actions.

That's precisely what's wrong with Washington: the utterly despicable sense of self-centeredness. To put it simply, America is the bully in the playground and can't accept anyone else that would have the audacity to do what it does: steal lunches (and here's the kicker) from the ugly kids.

Basically, America gets to define who is ugly; hence the war on terror—note how carefully America has avoided defining what constitutes terrorism, who is a terrorist, and

"That's precisely what's wrong with Washington: the utterly despicable sense of self-centeredness. To put it simply, America is the bully in the playground and can't accept anyone else that would have the audacity to do what it does: steal lunches (and here's the kicker) from the ugly kids."

what winning the war on terrorism entails. This gives President Obama, or (Heavens forbid!) President McCain, the mandate to use, against those they consider ugly, their military might composed of young Americans who will probably never know the ways in which their theft of lunches all over the world creates a backlash against their country.

I do think though, that it's unfair to pick on Obama or McCain. This lustful syndrome of supremacy rather than pursuit of national interests, which are fair on a global level, affects almost all politicians in Washington—except for possibly Ron Paul. By artfully disguising its manoeuvring of IMF, World Bank, NATO, UN, and other international organizations as pursuit of national interest, the American establishment regularly intrudes in the national politics of sovereign states to enhance or maintain American supremacy over them.

The latest example of the pursuit of national interest (read "American supremacy") is the installation of the non-functional missile defence system to keep check on Russia. In this case too, America gets to define the threat (Iran) and the response to that threat (missile defence).

This frame of American mindset is the biggest threat to world peace in our age and time. The increasing intoxication on power—military and

economic—is dangerous. For all we know, tomorrow America may decide to liberate Canadians from Harper's government for creating a military force of a hundred that violates the rights of all elves in the North Pole. Note also that McCain mentioned during the debate that the strategy used in Iraq, not the stupidity of the invasion itself, was the Vietnam-like lesson he drew from the war.

That's a compelling reason, for us Canucks at least, to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Americans and pursue order at the international level. The surging Russia and China don't have to, and will not accept, America as the leading moral, ethical, and legal authority as it likes to pretend at the world stage. The colloquial elephant in the room, the American quest for eternal dominance, must be debated before a violent rift among the major powers emerges.

The debate was a hint that who wins this presidential election is irrelevant. If unchecked, America will continue its policies of continuing supremacy over the rest of the world. The American psyche, especially after the cold-war, seems unable to accept a nation at par with itself. Therefore, it will do whatever is necessary to maintain its economic and military edge. Even if that means occupying Iraq and Afghanistan to secure a monopoly in oil and gas for American businesses.

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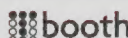
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# The magnificent, marvelous magic of Mr Mistoffelees

The alpha cat of the Edmonton-bound Broadway spectacle *CATS!* speaks about his rapid transformation into a human-sized feline

## theatrepreview

### CATS!

Directed by Trevor Nunn

Choreography by Gillian Lynne

Runs 30 September–October 5,

Tuesday–Saturday at 8pm; Sunday at

7:30pm

\$50–70 at ticketmaster.ca

SIMON YACKULIC

Entertainment Staff

"You don't see people for two and a half hours. It's not something you normally get at the theatre. Come into this junkyard and see cats!"

Jonathan Mercer, who plays Mr Mistoffelees in the upcoming performance of *CATS!* at the Jubilee, is enthusiastic, but he needs to be—it's technically his job.

"Probably the most thrilling part of the *CATS!* musical would have to be that we aren't people—we get to be completely void of ourselves," Mercer says. "In other shows, you have to be a human up onstage. But this gives you complete freedom to act like a kid in a way because you don't have to be the person, and when you step out of the theatre, it's a completely different story."

This magical feline tale will illustrate Andrew Lloyd Webber's interpretation of a poem written by T S Eliot, "The Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats." At the time of the show's initial stint, it was able to set a record for the longest-running musical—both in London and on Broadway.

However, the popularity of *CATS!* extends past the records it has set. In addition to being sought out even by those who don't regularly consider themselves patrons of choreography-rich theatre, *CATS!* is well known to the public eye and it's extravagant characters have been referenced in movies such as *Team America: World Police*. Ironically, despite its popularity, Mercer himself has only ever watched the musical in its digital format.



"I've never actually seen it live. It's weird because I'm in the show, and I still haven't seen it—I haven't been in the audience yet. I've seen the DVD, but no, not live."

To unlock the potential that this musical holds and properly convey the furry characters to the audience through rhythm and movement, the dancers of *CATS!* must stay in top shape for every performance. The magical Mr Mistoffelees explains that the performers "have group warm-ups and a physical therapist" to help meet the highly specialized training needs of the actors, whose costumes weigh roughly 30 pounds. Many dancers suffer injuries and strain from the intense stress they put on their bodies from almost constant performing and repetition while on tour. Having

a group physical therapist helps to ensure the dancers are physically at the top of their game and avoiding injury.

**"[Mr Mistoffelees] has somewhat of a devilish quality to him, but not in a negative way. He's kind of a joking devil."**

JONATHAN MERCER  
MR MISTOFFELEES, *CATS!*

While touring with the large cast of *CATS!*, physical injury might not be the only problem for a group member. When a sizable troupe of artistically-minded individuals are forced to work

in a close-knit unit for a long period of time, it would seem like they might start to claw at more than just balls of string—but not according to Mercer.

"Everybody has got along really well. We started hanging out from the first week and I mean everybody is treating each other really nicely and it's like we're a big family."

If this attitude continues to guide the crew, perhaps they can survive the rest of this lengthy tour, which lasts almost a year, without getting caught up in any cat-fights. Even though they get along on the road and seem to avoid pranking each other, Mercer says that he still had to channel his inner mischievousness when preparing to play Mr Mistoffeles.

"The character is very to himself and kind of silly in a way, but has this crazy power to do magic tricks and stuff like

that," Mercer explains. "So for me, I just need to act like goofy and weird but keep it to myself until my number. I guess I definitely just allow myself to be a clown in a way. The name of the character derives from the alternate name of Satan. He has somewhat of a devilish quality to him, but not in a negative way. He's kind of a joking devil. I take that into account when I'm onstage and just think, 'Oh, I have all these little powers, what can I do?'"

But embodying a feline rascal with magical powers suits Mercer just fine. Wearing their flamboyant costumes and surrounded by the lavish light show, he expects to be as immersed in the experience as the audience.

"That two and a half hours of just being away from reality and not being yourself—it's kind of a trip."

# Palahniuk adaptation *Chokes* on laboured dialogue, faked handjobs

## filmreview

### Choke

Directed by Clark Gregg

Starring Sam Rockwell, Anjelica

Huston, Kelly MacDonald, and Brian

William Henke

Now Playing

ELLIOT GOODINE

Arts & Entertainment Writer

*Fight Club* was one of those classic generation-defining films, so you probably know someone who has seen it at least ten times and knows every single line. On the other hand, *Choke*, the second film to be adapted from a novel by author Chuck Palahniuk, is an unfortunately clumsy attempt at bringing the novel onscreen and won't be defining anyone's generation.

The story revolves around medical

school dropout Victor Mancini (played by the little-known Sam Rockwell), a sex addict who spends his Sexaholics Anonymous meetings screwing his sponsor in the bathroom. He works alongside his fellow sex-addict friend Denny at a colonial American historical park, which barely pays the medical bills to allow his mother (Anjelica Huston) to stay at a private hospital for her dementia.

To supplement his income, Victor takes advantage of wealthy restaurant customers. Once his meals are delivered, he gulps giant chunks of meat and intentionally chokes, then waits for a stranger to save him, guided by his philosophy that "when someone saves your life, they'll love you forever." Once Victor has a new victim, he tells his new savior about his hard times—whatever lie he can come up with—and voila, he has money flowing in.

Actor-turned-director Clark Gregg shows he is as adept behind the

camera as in front of it with *Choke*, a wickedly colourful dark comedy about mothers and sons, sexual compulsion, and the sordid underbelly of Colonial theme.

**Gregg's main strategy is to show as many breasts as possible along with traditionally tame, Hollywood-style sex.**

This premise has the massive potential for zany, antisocial, *Fight Club*-style fun, but the directing and screen adaptation by Clark Gregg rushes the story, robbing it of any potential manic joy. The whole film blazes by in ninety minutes, moving at breakneck speed from one plot point to the next, never building tension or letting any developments settle in.

This pace never lets Victor's character develop properly. Instead of presenting him as a conflicted character suffering with a sex addiction problem, Rockwell just comes off like a pervy Dana Carvey look-alike with stubble.

Considering that sex addiction is a central topic in *Choke*, it's disappointing how uncreatively the film depicts sex. Rather than attempting to emulate the sadistic raunch that characterized Palahniuk's novel version, Gregg's main strategy is to show as many breasts as possible along with traditionally tame, Hollywood-style sex. To make matters worse, one scene contains a handjob so obviously faked that it distracts from the surprisingly important dialogue.

Films like *Eyes Wide Shut* have managed to depict shocking sex acts in a manner that's actually shocking, but *Choke* is only disturbingly timid, apparently petrified of receiving the dreaded NC-17 rating.

Occasionally, a redeeming moment

arises. There are a few laughs to be had here and there, some of the shots are rather memorable, and Gregg's choice of playing the Radiohead song "Reckoner" over the final scene is apt and gets the mood right. These elements however, don't fix *Choke*'s major problems, resulting in only half of a satisfying viewing experience.

At the end of *Choke*'s rushed plot, Gregg's adaptation starts making significant changes, which will leave unfamiliar viewers scratching their heads about all of the unresolved subplots, while fans of the book will just be annoyed with the drastic plot changes that take the sense of poetry out of the twisted story.

Fans of Palahniuk's books have been waiting the longest for the film version of *Choke* to hit the screen, yet the adaptation seems to neglect them, showing again that cinema is a form that all too frequently chokes on the books it desperately tries to swallow.



# Matt White bridges the gap between easy listening and fast food

Between caring for his girlfriend and trying to get in shape, the New York songwriter barely has enough time to pitch the McRib

## musicpreview

### Matt White

With Guests

Wednesday, 1 October at 8pm

Velvet Underground (10030-102 St)

\$12 at ticketmaster.ca

SARAH STEAD

Arts & Entertainment Staff

In the bustling metropolis of New York, Matt White is taking a day off from the noisy city streets during a brief respite from touring to spend some downtime with the two loves of his life: his girlfriend and his dog Rufus.

"I just took my girlfriend to get her wisdom teeth removed, so I was just sitting in bed with her, taking care of her," White says.

He hasn't had much time to lie around in bed, however. White's latest album *Best Days* was released on 18 September, but he's already been enjoying considerable success from his first two singles "Love" which appeared in Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher's *What Happens in Vegas*, while the album's title track was used in the 2007 blockbuster *Shrek the Third*. The most recent source of success, however, is an unlikely one—a McDonalds commercial.

"I won a contest and yeah, that's pretty much how it happened," White explains. "The contest was that whoever won got their song in a McDonalds' commercial. It's great; my sales are skyrocketing because of it. It's for the McRib, which is a great sandwich."

As tasty as the sandwich may be, White likely won't be eating many on

tour. Before shooting his music video for "Best Days," his label contacted him and informed him that he needed to drop a few pounds before they would shoot it. Instead of taking offence, Matt hired a trainer and embraced the challenge to shape up.

"Yeah, I mean every label tells every artist out there [to lose weight]," he laughs. "I was not taking good care of myself and I wanted to get in good shape anyways [...] You only have your video once, so [you want to] make sure it's good and make sure you look good."

### "I won a contest [...]"

The contest was that whoever won got their song in a McDonalds' commercial. It's for the McRib, which is a great sandwich."

MATT WHITE

With his new svelte figure, White has also become one of the new faces for Gap. With the US on the cusp of a major election, Gap has introduced the "Gap Vote Initiative," aimed at getting younger people interesting in the election process and in exercising their democratic right to vote. According to White though, you don't necessarily need to pick a presidential candidate. You can vote for whatever you want to—White has chosen to "Vote for Love," which is the name of his latest tour.

"We're going around to different Gap stores and encouraging people to



vote and everyone can fill out a "Vote for \_\_\_\_" shirt and put in different ideas. You can 'Vote for Love,' 'Vote for Freedom,' [...] 'Vote for Canada.' You have an election coming up too, don't you?"

There's a rustling noise on the other end of the phone and for a brief moment it sounds like he may have been disconnected.

"Hold on," White says, "I just have to take the dog away. It's torturing my girlfriend. He's got her applesauce. Rufus! Off! [...] He just won't leave

her alone!"

When he returns, the election discussion continues. White's initially a bit hesitant to share who he's voting for, before admitting he'll be casting his ballot for Obama.

"I'm going to be playing at a rally for Barack Obama. I think it's time for change. But, I like John McCain too," he admits. "I just think Obama seems cooler."

Originally a Political Science major, White eventually made the switch to study music, but flunked out due to

bad grades—something he attributes partially to having been diagnosed with ADD.

"Do you guys have ADD up in Canada?" White jokes. But when asked if he was ever afraid that his ADD might interfere with his career, he gets serious.

"No," he says simply. "People who have ADD are distracted by everything but what they love. I love music so much. I love playing it and being in it, and [not succeeding] was never a question."

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# Austen play lengthy but satisfying

## theatrereview

### Pride and Prejudice

Directed by Bob Baker  
Adaptation by Tom Wood  
Written by Jane Austen  
Starring Amanda Lisman, Réjean Cournoyer, Lally Cadeau, Tim Koetting, Wade Bogert-O'Brien, and Stafford Perry  
Runs until 12 October at 7:30pm  
The Citadel (Shoctor Theatre, 9828-101A Avenue)  
\$45-55 for students at  
tickets.citadeltheatre.com

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

If there had been such a thing as 19th-century soap operas, they would have been very similar to Tom Wood's stage adaptation of Jane Austen's beloved novel, *Pride and Prejudice*.

However, the play begins with a revolving set which, uncharacteristic of the 19th century, borrows the elegant and ornate styles found in Baroque churches two centuries prior. As the set turns, the audience witnesses the various happenings of a rural area near London before being introduced to the Bennets, with Mr and Mrs Bennet and their five single daughters.

Mrs Bennet's (Lally Cadeau) main purpose in life is to see that all her daughters get married. She's superficial, and life in general seems to be hard on her nerves. That said, Cadeau (who also plays the equally superficial but elitist Lady Catherine de Bourgh) makes what would be a terribly

annoying person in real life a comedic scene stealer. Just as captivating is Mr Bennet (Tim Koetting) who, like the audience, finds his wife to be a nuisance, and offers sarcastic humour to make things more bearable.

*Pride and Prejudice's* lead female protagonist, Lizzy (Amanda Lisman), is an anomaly from every other character in this play (with the exception of Mr Darcy) who have the tendency of being either unintelligent, ignorant, or shallow.

**A little over three hours long, *Pride and Prejudice*, like most soap operas, has a tendency to drag out plot developments.**

While Lizzy is free-spirited, Mr Darcy (Réjean Cournoyer) is the dark horse. His seeming lack of human emotion irritates Lizzy and the two butt heads from the get-go.

This interaction, driven by ego and false assumptions, should be the highlight of this story, but unfortunately, Cournoyer's line deliveries come off as somewhat wooden. However, he is able to project so much more emotion nonverbally, which is truly an advantage closer to the end of the show when his character struggles nervously to reveal his true feelings to Lizzy.

It isn't all about the Bennets and Mr Darcy, however. If you've ever randomly tuned in to watch a daytime drama, you may be overwhelmed by the cast size and intricate

relationships. But if you stick around long enough and take the time to associate yourself with the characters, you discover that it wasn't that difficult to digest. Watching *Pride and Prejudice* gives the audience a similar experience. There are love triangles, characters you love to hate, amusing rivalries, and more.

The supporting cast is equally solid and, at times, more captivating to watch than the leads. Wade Bogert-O'Brien plays the dashing and very likable Mr Charles Bingley, who falls in love with the eldest Bennet daughter Jane, while Anna Jane Hardwick (Miss Caroline Bingley) plays the snotty bitch who turns her nose down at everyone, including Mrs Bennet.

This results in subtle glares from afar and condescending mutterings that make the dynamic between the two women (who are apart in social standing but very much alike in their shallowness) one of the best aspects of this production. Jeremy Baumung is another attention-grabber, playing the flamboyant and overly pretentious Mr William Collins, who also has his sights set on Lizzy. Baumung provides one of the funniest scenes in the play, when Mr Collins proposes and just can't take no for an answer.

A little over three hours long, *Pride and Prejudice*, like most soap operas, has a tendency to drag out plot developments. Despite this, its cleverly written script would easily relate to those who have ever painstakingly racked their brains trying to figure out what certain people are thinking. Add sharp comedic timing and genuine cast chemistry and you get a production that should not be missed.



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## Culture 101 Exhibit #3: Dane Cook



Pictured here on the left in *Employee of the Month*—a classic on the level of *Caddyshack* or *Animal House*—Dane Cook has catapulted to the pinnacle of comedy superstardom in recent years. With his razor-sharp political satire that turns an eye on society's obsession with Burger King and his genius wit that lampoons the tiny unicorns that live in our car exhaust systems, Cook has established himself as the George Carlin or Richard Pryor of our time.

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# Slackers unite in average new Moore film

## filmreview

### Slacker Uprising

Directed by Michael Moore  
Now available online at  
slackeruprising.com

ELLIOT GOODINE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Michael Moore's work has always followed a subversive strain, from nipping at the heels of GM in Michigan, to lambasting the NRA, and finally decrying the Bush administration. In *Slacker Uprising*, Moore again bashes Republicans, but has also subverted the movie industry with the film's release.

For his unconventional approach, Moore has made *Slacker Uprising* available online for free. This seems like an intuitively smart move if the movie's target audience is indeed comprised of the sort of person who is strapped for cash and refuses to leave the couch.

*Slacker Uprising* doesn't follow the model of other films made by Moore. While he took on the NRA in *Bowling for Columbine* and the American health care system in *Sicko*, *Slacker Uprising* doesn't have a target victim. Instead, the documentary simply follows Moore around the United States in 2004 as he gave a speaking tour trying to "get slackers off the sofa," imploring them to elect John Kerry.

Early on in the film, a reporter asks Moore if his films are propaganda. The director then goes on a diatribe about how the media themselves are the propagandists. Citing the coverage of the Iraq war, Moore

explains that the media failed to ask any hard questions about Iraq, letting the Bush administration pull the wool over the eyes of the American public. *Fahrenheit 9/11*, in his eyes, was simply giving information to people that they should be getting for free on the nightly news.

*Slacker Uprising's* footage of Moore's talks is largely a reiteration of similar anti-Bush rhetoric, highlighting the foolishness of the Bush tax strategy and the pain caused to families of soldiers who died in Iraq for no apparent reason.

**Even though it isn't as interesting as Moore's other films, *Slacker Uprising* isn't as much of a disappointment as it could have been, considering that the content is free.**

Sometimes, the film's coverage of Republican opposition to Moore is more entertaining than the portly filmmaker himself. As his tour progressed, many campuses were hassled for booking Moore to speak, and inundated with inarticulate Bush supporters protesting his talks. In some cases, businessmen were offering money to campuses that cancelled Moore's speaking events. When the University of San Diego called off their Moore event, however, it was simply moved to a larger venue down the street.

He also managed to annoy

Michigan Republicans by giving ramen noodles and clean underwear—"the sustenance of slackers"—to former non-voters who registered to vote at his talks. Republicans claimed that this amounted to bribery, and called for his arrest.

*Slacker Uprising* is improved by a large number of cameos by both musicians and celebrities. Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder, Rage Against The Machine's Tom Morello, and Steve Earle all give inspired performances throughout, especially Vedder's acoustic performance of Cat Stevens' "Don't Be Shy." Viggo Mortensen and REM's Michael Stipe also make an appearance to comment and show that not all celebrities are clueless when it comes to talking politics.

However, other cameos are more forgettable. Both Roseanne Barr and folk singer Joan Baez's appearances make no sense and also show how weird and out of touch liberals can sometimes act when they preach to the converted.

Of course, Bush was re-elected, so *Slacker Uprising* ends with a downer. Moore did point out, however, that the youth vote went for Kerry and that Kerry won a clear majority in the cities that Moore visited.

Even though it isn't as interesting as Moore's other films, *Slacker Uprising* isn't as much of a disappointment as it could have been, considering that the content is free. It plays more like a bonus featurette of *Fahrenheit 9/11*. While it may not actually give any conclusions about how to increase youth participation in democracy, *Slacker Uprising* is still welcome material for those who have enjoyed Moore's other work.

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# RIAA's idiotic royalties try to keep Pandora in its box



IAN  
PHILLIPCHUK

A&E Commentary

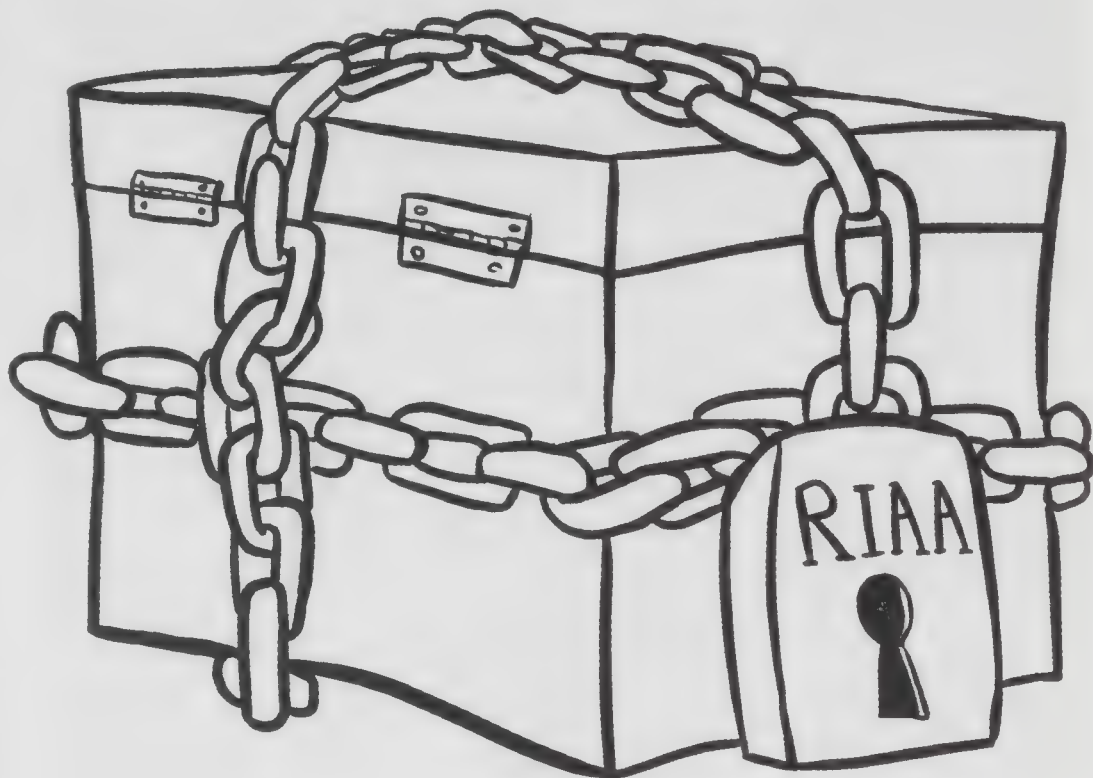
There's no clear evidence to prove that the RIAA are a bunch of drug-addled head cases but if they were, it would certainly explain a few things about them. The association seems to be so obsessed on wringing all the money it can from consumers that it's clear they have no vested interest in the music industry's health and only really care about keeping their coffers filled. The RIAA has done some stupid shit in the past, from suing employed single mothers to using borderline illegal tactics to try and get rid of file sharers. But now, the RIAA has a new target in its sights. It so happens to be the best site you've ever heard of: Pandora.

Have you ever had a band you really liked and you just wished that they could make more music? If you went to your average record store and asked them for music in the genre of south-east Russian electro-lounge or artists like Gogol Bordello, they would probably just laugh at you. If only there was a service where you could plug in the most obscure of artists and get a multitude of similar-sounding musicians' samples of their work. Pandora was that and more. Input your favourite songs, the site used an algorithm to match you with comparable tunes, and pretty soon you were in audio bliss.

Anyone with more than a couple brain cells to rub together can see how this is an incredible boon to the music industry. Pandora was a portal through which music fans could discover artists and gave a new means for musicians to be discovered by people that would genuinely admire their music. Speaking from a personal standpoint, I bought more music when I was using Pandora than at any other time in my life. I found artists I would never have encountered otherwise and it expanded my music library threefold from what it was.

**Anyone with more than a couple brain cells to rub together can see how Pandora is an incredible boon to the music industry.**

Of course, the RIAA couldn't stand to have someone run a perfectly legal business and be successful. They used their collection agency, SoundExchange, to raise the royalty rates for Internet radio stations like Pandora to absolutely ridiculous levels by 2010. While 2.91¢ per hour per listener sounds like chump change to you or me, to Pandora that was 70 per cent of their operating budget; in comparison, satellite radio only pays 1.6¢ per hour, while regular radio pays nothing. For an ambitious startup like Pandora, those levels of fees aren't just unworkable; they're a death sentence, and Pandora has already stated



CONAL PIERSE

they would have to close with the new royalty prices.

Pandora was founded on the idea of bringing people together with the music they liked. But more than that, it represented the direction of the industry. Whether the RIAA likes it or not, the industry is shifting to the internet. No one will buy a CD for \$20 when you can grab a copy for \$9.99 off of

iTunes. Even then, many people won't even buy music at all when they can simply go to any torrent tracker and download whole albums for free.

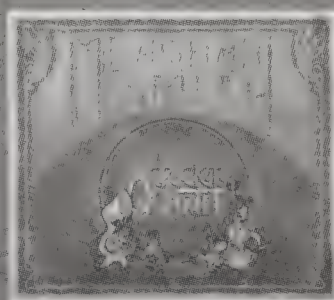
Pandora and its compatriots Last.fm, Live365, and AOL Internet Radio represent a brave new frontier for discovering music and a perfectly legal way of providing music online, yet they frighten the RIAA. After all,

no one will need them once artists can upload a song and get paid directly for a pittance of what would be charged for a CD, but considerably more than the artist would normally receive. The RIAA is scared of this future because it doesn't include them, so now they are trying desperately to jam Pandora back into its box, and damn the consequences.



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PETE YEE

**OVERCOMING ALL HURDLES** Bears midfielder Alex Campos (12) jumps over a fallen T-Bird trying to gain possession of the ball and quell the UBC attack.

## Soccer Bears lose ground in playoff race with first defeats

Losses to Victoria, UBC keep Alberta from moving past fourth in conference

NICK FROST  
Sports Editor

When the Golden Bears soccer team envisioned passing the Canada West season's halfway point, they were hoping to come down the home-stretch remaining undefeated, as well as gain some ground on the two British Columbia-based teams at the top of the standings. Instead, Alberta dropped both games this past weekend to the very same teams that they're trying to catch, losing 3-1 to the Victoria Vikes on Saturday and 2-0 to the UBC Thunderbirds on Sunday at Foote Field.

Despite the Bears' best efforts to hold off the Vikes and the Thunderbirds, their inexperience seemed to catch up with them, allowing their west-coast opponents to capitalize on the few opportunities that they had. Head coach Len Vickery chalked up Saturday's loss to the fact that the Vikes possess much more of a veteran presence that allows them to prevail in these types of situations.

"They're a much more experienced squad than we are," Vickery said. "Those players have been around their program for three and four years, and there are a good number of them, whereas we're a little bit younger. We just have to recognize that we're not quite at the level of some of the top teams in the league.

"For example, we gave it as good as we got in the second half, but, at the end of the day, we still only played them to 1-1. Unfortunately, we didn't

play them even in the first half, and the result is a 3-1 defeat."

On the other side of the field, Victoria head coach Bruce Wilson was satisfied with his team's performance, noting as well that, whether at home or on the road, they always expect a tough challenge from Alberta—which is exactly what they got on Saturday afternoon.

"It was a full effort out there today," Wilson said. "We knew it was going to be hard with the wind in the first half, and we gambled a little bit going against it, but it paid off. We managed to come out ahead at half time and we managed to score a couple of goals at key times. We're pleased with our performance, and to be able to score three goals away from home, there's no doubt that we're happy."

As if the losses weren't enough, to add injury to insult for the Bears, first-year defender Matthew Cowan went down towards the end of Saturday's match after being involved in a collision with a Vikes player at midfield. After staying down for several minutes, he was finally carried off the field applying no pressure to his right leg. Cowan would join his teammates on the sidelines again on Sunday, albeit on crutches.

"Of course, that's the most concerning thing right now is the injury to Matt Cowan. It didn't look pretty, and the early suggestion is that it's fairly serious," Vickery said on Saturday.

Despite Cowan's presence on the sidelines against UBC, the Bears still couldn't be inspired to find a way to capitalize on their chances. Even

though the Thunderbirds controlled the pace for the better part of the game Alberta seemed to have the better chances throughout both halves. The problem, according to Vickery, is that while the team is not only failing to capitalize on their bounty of chances they're also allowing their opponents to score on the few chances they are allowing.

"I thought that the effort we've given in both games was good but we've been punished," Vickery explained. "They only had one telling ball into our penalty area in the first half and scored, and they only had one telling ball into our penalty area in the second half and scored. Now, they've been good enough to finish, but we haven't been good enough to deal with it, and that's where you get punished."

Coming out of these two games, the players are seemingly a little more frustrated at the lack of production despite their efforts, but team veteran John Konye believes that the team's effort is in the right place—what needs to be worked out going into next week, in his opinion, are the expectations that the team places on itself.

"We were a little disappointed by the result," Konye said. "I think that we fought hard and we had our chances and we didn't put them away. I'm frustrated, and I'd say that the team is as well. But, they are two great teams, so we have to temper our expectations, especially since we're a young team, and just realize that we have a lot of room to improve and come together."

## Pandas field hockey frustrated with split against visiting Dinos

Head coach Carla Duncan and company disappointed with lack of second-half effort, allowing Calgary to steal a victory on Sunday

NICK FROST  
Sports Editor

The Pandas field hockey team came away from their home weekend set with a split against the last-place Calgary Dinos, pulling out a 2-1 win on Saturday and dropping 3-1 decision on Sunday. With the split, each team moves closer towards the second-place Victoria Vikes—for the Pandas, however, they felt as though they should've come away with both victories, thus letting them shake off the Dinos in the four-team Canada West playoff chase.

While the victory against Calgary on Saturday was a step in the right direction to earning that final Canada West berth in the CIS Championships—and potentially passing the Vikes with four games left in the season—the team felt a regression in their play the following afternoon. After Sunday's tilt, head coach Carla Duncan expressed her disappointment over the team's inability to take both games from the Dinos.

"Yeah, we're pretty disappointed with the results," Duncan said. "I think that we are a better team than Calgary, but they took the opportunity to be aggressive and I think they put some real pressure on us. We're not happy with that, so we have to go back to the drawing board, look at it, and move on."

In both games, the Pandas seemed to have strong starts, but collapsed in the second half, which Calgary took full advantage of. Each

match saw Alberta come out with lackluster efforts, allowing the Dinos to come within one goal on Saturday, and secure the victory on Sunday after coming out of the first half with a 1-1 tie.

"They got a bit of a fortunate goal right at the end of the first half [on Sunday], and it kind of created an opportunity out of nothing much, and we didn't respond to that very well," Duncan explained. "We came out again in the second half—both today and yesterday—a little bit flat. I think we were maybe a little bit tired—we just sort of lacked that step to the ball and it cost us. We maybe played a little bit of a slower game than what we're accustomed to."

On the field, Pandas midfielder Erin Mason—who finished with the lone goal on Sunday—attributed the loss to the team still being a little bit worn out from the effort invested into Saturday's match.

"I think today was sort of a similar game [to Saturday], except that I guess we didn't capitalize enough in the beginning when we were playing well, and that lull kind of cost us a little bit in the second half," Mason noted. "I think there were just some unlucky bounces and unlucky calls, so it just wasn't our day."

Dinos head coach Jenn Swagar, along with the rest of her team, were visibly excited about their victory on Sunday. Kaitlin Longworth and Courtney Campbell each notched two goals during the two-game set to keep the Dinos in contention. The win could help Calgary gain a



BRENNAN MURPHY

**HACKING AWAY** The Pandas tried to chip away at the point differential between them and Victoria.

little bit of confidence and momentum going forward into next week's battle at home against UBC.

"I think, today, that more than two players came to play," Swagar said. "Yesterday, we had two or three players that were playing consistently throughout the game, but today, we had more. Things just clicked a little bit better because there were more people involved in the game—even the people that were subbed-in

were getting more involved."

The Pandas will now look forward to next week when they host the Victoria Vikes, and hope that they can pull out a stronger effort in their push for second-place.

"Obviously, a win here today would've put us more in a position to gun for Victoria, but there are still lots of games left in the season," Duncan said. "It may be a cliché, but that's how you have to approach it: one game at a time."



# Forget highlight-reel goals—we want to see someone get knocked out

As fun as it is to watch hockey for dazzling displays of offensive skill, sometimes a good throwdown is all the entertainment needed



SPORTS  
STAFF

GROUP  
L. GUYER/STAFF

Whether you view it as being a crucial element or not having a place in the game at all, fighting is as much a part of hockey as the mullet, the two-line pass, or those old-school, sphere-shaped Jofa helmets.

The following are a list of some of Gateway Sports' favourite scraps.

## Matt Pretty

The best hockey fight ever was a no-holds-barred donnybrook between the Edmonton Oilers and the Atlanta Thrashers on 11 February, 2004, at the formerly dubbed Skyreach Centre. What makes it so great, you ask? Well, three things to be exact.

First, every guy on the ice paired off: Francois Lessard took on big Georges Laraque; Jeff Cowan tussled with Jason Chimera; Andy Sutton wrestled Eric Brewer; Ivan Majesky got into it with Jason Smith; Serge Aubin fought Mike Bishai; hell, even the goalies got into it—Pasi Nurminen threw down blocker and glove against Ty Conklin.

Second, the Aubin/Bishai tussle on the undercard was the best of the night. Aubin manhandled Bishai backwards over the boards into the Atlanta bench and that seemed to be the end of that. But, just when you thought it was over, Bishai popped up and started

raining thunderous right hands upon the flailing Frenchman—four good ones in a row at one point. The young Oiler won the fight, and the fact that he had the guts to do it while standing in the middle of the opponent's bench gives him even more cred. He may never do anything in pro hockey again, but he's the only guy I've ever seen fight from the other guy's bench.

Third, the Oilers won the overall scrap, in my opinion—Laraque, Bishai, and Conklin all scored this judge's decisions, Brewer and Smith lost, and Chimera fought to a draw—as well as winning the game 5-1. Not to mention, I was there to see all of it from row eight—absolutely glorious view for what was indeed a great fight.

## Cody Civiero

In the 1991/92 season, the Detroit Red Wings' Bob Probert had earned a reputation as the NHL's top fighter, and only the fiercest enforcers dared step up and challenge him. Tie Domi was with the New York Rangers, and was still a relatively unknown, rank-and-file tough guy. However, he aimed to change that on 9 February, 1992.

Ignoring the puck and following face-off, the two dropped their gloves and snatched each others' jerseys, swinging wildly while spinning the other counter-clockwise. Jabbing downwards, the half-foot-taller Probert savagely pounded away at the top of Domi's cement-like skull to no apparent effect, while his tiny opponent swung upwards and caught Probert's chin repeatedly. Probert was quickly stripped of helmet, jersey, and

padding, and bloodied.

Lasting for roughly a minute of consistent and vicious blows, it was a battle for the ages, with Domi getting the slight edge and the street cred he was looking for. While being whisked away by a ref, he hammed it up, tying an imaginary championship belt around his waist and spinning his pointed finger around the crowd for applause.

It wasn't only a top-quality scrap on its own, but it launched Domi into the spotlight and started one of the best fighting rivalries ever. For the fight itself, the subsequent showboating, and the consequences it birthed, Domi and Probert's inaugural bout belongs on any list of classic NHL brawls.

## Nick Frost

I'm a sucker for goalie fights—there's no question about it. Watching two netminders standing idly by, contemplating joining the other ten guys around them throwing haymakers, and then finally giving each other the nod to rush to centre ice—discarding blocker, glove and mask in the process—is one of the most exciting rarities in all of sports. Over the years, there have been numerous goaltending rumbles that have satisfied the aggressive hockey fan in me—my favourite of which involved former Philadelphia Flyer Ron Hextall and former Toronto Maple Leaf Felix "The Cat" Potvin.

One of the reasons that Ron Hextall was so great to watch—aside from his above-average goaltending ability—was because of how haywire he would go the second the whistle had blown

and play had ended. Long before Ed Belfour was hacking at Ryan Smyth's calves in front of the Dallas net, Hextall was coming out of his crease and not only hacking at bodies with his stick, but also throwing clenched fists at anyone that invaded his proverbial goaltending bubble. Needless to say, in many hockey circles, Hextall is considered one of the craziest mofos to ever tend the goal.

So when the seemingly calm and collected Potvin sought out a piece of the beast known as "Hexy" at the end of a game at the CoreStates Center in Philadelphia in 1996, it seemed like he was basically making a death wish—or, at least, a request for a severe ass-whomping. When the two finally threw down in the midst of a scrum that had ensued from Leafs forward Wendel Clark having jumped Flyers tough guy Daniel Lacroix, fists started to fly furiously between them. Surprisingly, Potvin was able to hold his own well enough as each landed about a dozen good shots before finally tiring out.

Even though I love to see a Toronto Maple Leaf get his ass handed to him, the fact that the fight was very evenly matched—so much so that on hockeyfights.com, there is a near-split decision between fans as to who actually won the tilt—and there was a multitude of punches thrown, instead of the usual grappling-and-jersey-pulling-fest, made this a very entertaining upper-card bout.

## Evan Daum

You can't talk about hockey fights without mentioning one of the most


memorable fights in the last 20 years: Buffalo Sabres' goalie Marty Biron and Ottawa Senators' tender Ray Emery squaring off at HSBC Arena.

You had to love the smirk on Emery's face when he dropped the gloves and skated up the ice to meet Biron—and he had a mask with heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson on it to boot, so you had to know that he had been dreaming of showing off some of his own boxing skills on the ice.


Biron had no idea that he was going to get absolutely embarrassed, but that's pretty much what happened to the Buffalo netminder. When they finally clashed, Emery got the right arm loose and was able to pummel the Sabres netminder straight down to the ice.

It was fitting that the Sabres were sporting their old-school blue uniforms that night because it was an old fashioned rock 'em sock 'em game. If it weren't for Sabres tough guy Andrew Peters coming in to defend his goalie, Emery probably would have landed a few more shots on Biron. The Sens goalie, not one to back down, then took on Peters, and if it hadn't been for the size of Emery's goalie gear, I would have put money on him taking Peters down as well.

It wasn't the best fight ever, but it was certainly one of the most entertaining. I guess the final laugh has to go to Biron though, he may have lost that battle but I guess he won the war because Emery is off playing in Russia after having nothing but problems in Ottawa, and Biron is the sitting pretty as the Flyers starting goaltender.

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BRENNAN MURPHY

**GUT-CHECK TIME** As the ball comes toward the UBC keeper's stomach, the Pandas player ends up kicking it against her.

## Defensive strength allows soccer Pandas to sneak out a pair of ties

NICK FROST  
Sports Editor

While they didn't come out with the wins that they desired, the Pandas soccer team still managed to finish the weekend having stolen important points from two of the top teams in Canada West, picking up a 1-1 tie against the Victoria Vikes and a 0-0 draw against the UBC Thunderbirds. Both games were evenly matched for Alberta, with good chances to take the lead coming at both ends and the Pandas having to be on top of their game to keep the ball away from their net.

On Saturday, Alberta spent a good portion of the game holding off the Vikes' attack after taking an early lead in the fourth minute on a penalty kick from Veronique Mayer. Regardless of the tying goal in the 78th minute, Pandas head coach Liz Jepsen was happy with the effort that her team put up in trying to defend their one-goal lead.

"[Victoria] were able to get their players in there and they got us running and chasing, and pulled us out of shape," Jepsen explained. "But, at the end of the day, the key to defence is

condensing and covering, and we did those things. And while it might not be the prettiest thing at times, you just have to ask your players to get the job done."

Sunday's battle, as reflected by the scoreless draw, was a much tighter affair, as the Pandas and the UBC Thunderbirds spent most of the day jousting in the midfield. Chances were minimal between the two teams, while each squad's defence stepped up and made life difficult for the other.

"They played together as a team, and to be a championship team in this league, that's what you need to do," Jepsen said. "It's taken us a while to learn to battle for every ball, whether it be in the middle of the park or on a shot that goes through, and I think that all came together today."

"The players put in a tremendous second effort and it made a difference; we had a ton of blocked shots and some fantastic opportunities on net by sheer effort, which I see as being a big jump from previous weekends."

UBC head coach Dick Mosher was seemingly indifferent about his team's effort given their ability to keep Alberta at bay, while also having a hard time finishing against an equally

strong Pandas defence.

"Both teams had an opportunity to score a goal and win this thing, but, as it turned out, neither one of us took the opportunity," Mosher said. "I think we went out there and worked hard—see, it wasn't for a lack of work rate, it was simply a lack of polish and an inability to finish."

Alberta now find themselves in sixth place in Canada West, one point behind the Saskatchewan Huskies (3-3-2). Given the results of other matchups this past weekend that have thrown the conference into more of a logjam than at any other point this season, the Pandas now feel somewhat better about their chances to compete going forward.

"Given the unusual matchups for wins and whatnot, with the University of Saskatchewan beating UBC and Manitoba losing to Trinity Western [both on Saturday], it creates kind of a unique dynamic, so it'll be interesting to see how the splits work for us," Jepsen said. "Having taken points away is instrumental, but, more so, I think that this was a big weekend—especially in this game [on Sunday], as our team came together and played more as a unit."

all of making the Canada West playoffs.

from 16-18 October at the Main Gym.

## SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Matt Pretty

### Bears Football

Another road game spelled another loss for the Bears football team (1-4) as they dropped a 35-12 decision to the Saskatchewan Huskies (3-1) in Saskatoon on Friday night. Jerry Friesen's crew is now 0-3 on the road this year and in last place in Canada West. Alberta gave up an astronomical 661 yards of total offence to the Huskies, including 464 through the air, which is distinctly out of character for what was the top pass defence in the conference.

On offence, the Bears were unable to get any rhythm going, as Quade Armstrong passed for 130 yards on eleven of 24 attempts with one interception. Joe Orlicz mopped up at QB and threw for Alberta's lone touchdown, a nine-yard pass to Damon Fraietta, who led the Bears with five catches for 87 yards. Tendayi Jozzy and Matt Jarvis gained 50 and 46 yards respectively on nine carries each. The Bears will have to regroup and end their road woes this weekend at Regina to have any chance at

### Pandas Rugby

The Pandas rugby squad served notice to the rest of the conference this past weekend that they're back with a vengeance. Alberta swept the Canada West seeding tournament at Lethbridge, posting three victories on the weekend while allowing only one score in three matches. They beat UBC 34-0, Victoria 37-0, and the defending champion Pronghorns 9-5.

Marlene Nedved led the Pandas in scoring on the weekend with three tries against Victoria, while Jill Morgan scored in all three games—one try versus Victoria, two converts against UBC, and two important penalty goals against Lethbridge. The Pandas are now the number-one seed for the Canada West tournament at UBC on 17-19 October, and they will face Victoria in the semifinal.

### Bears Volleyball

The Bears volleyball team split their two-game exhibition series with Trinity Western in the Okanagan last week. On Thursday, they lost a hard-fought five-set match to the Spartans 3-2 in Penticton before rebounding and sweeping 3-0 in Kelowna on Friday. The Bears' next action will be in the annual Can-Am Challenge

### Pandas Volleyball

The Pandas volleyball team can't be pleased with this past weekend as they came home from the Cougar Invitational without a medal.

After sweeping through the preliminary round with 3-1 wins over both Calgary and Winnipeg and a 3-0 sweep of Brandon, Alberta fell to the host Regina Cougars 3-2 in the semifinal and dropped the bronze medal match 3-1 to the Manitoba Bisons. The Pandas will have a chance to redeem themselves in another tournament at UBC this upcoming weekend.

### Pandas Hockey

The puck Pandas hosted the Pandas Presence tournament at Clare Drake this past weekend. After a 5-3 win over Team China and a 6-2 win over a provincial U-18 team from Saskatchewan, Alberta faced off against the defending CIS champion McGill Martlets.

Despite goals from Stephanie Ramsay and Tarin Podloski, the Pandas couldn't quite overcome a determined McGill team and lost the game 3-2. Alberta doesn't have time to dwell on the loss, though, as they begin conference play this coming weekend against UBC.



## On This Day in 1994:

The National Hockey League announced that it was locking out the players for the 1994/95 season until a new Collective Bargaining Agreement could be reached. The lockout resulted in an abbreviated 48-game season.

We're already a month into things at Gateway Sports, so why not join us for an abbreviated season? The opportunity to get involved is still on the table. Meetings in 3-04 SUB on Tuesdays at 5pm.

# GATEWAY SPORTS

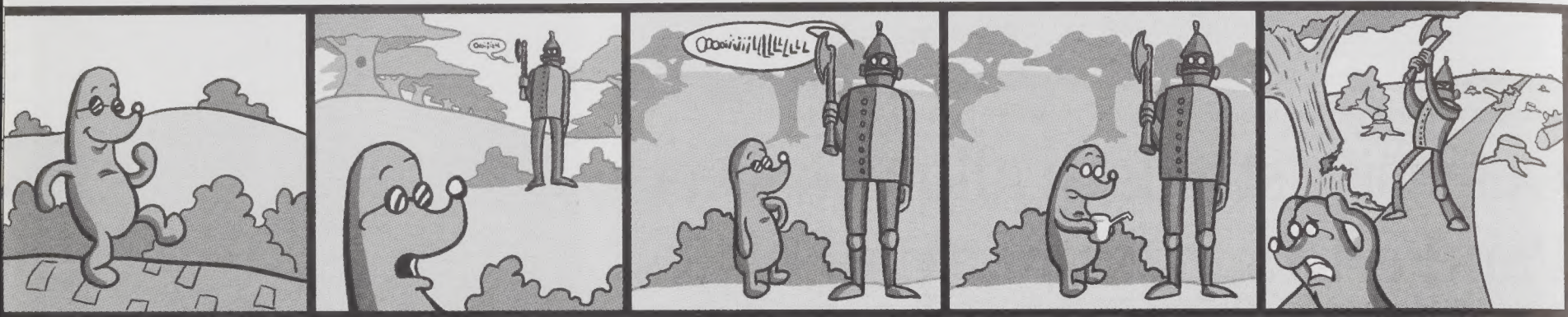
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TOP AND ICE CREAM by Lance and Evan Mudryk



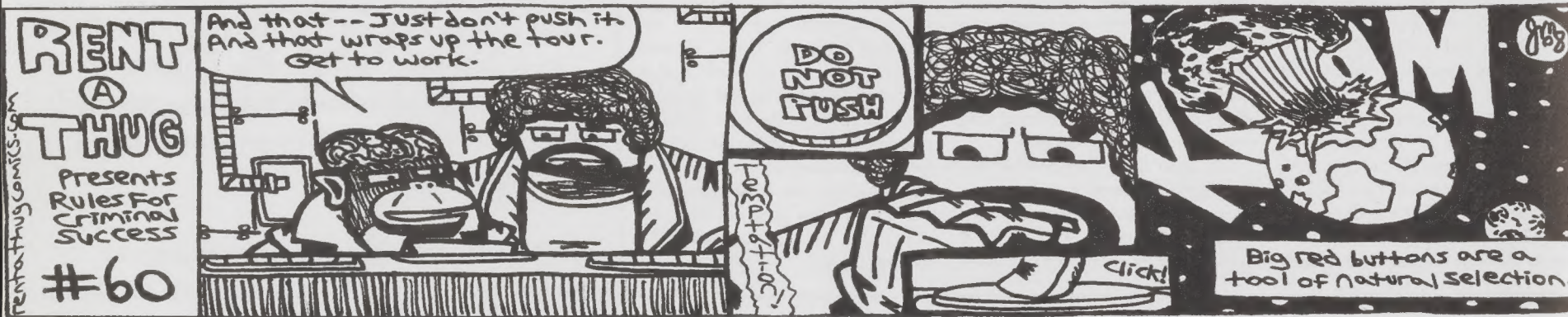
MAN VS NATURE by Conal Pierce



WONDER WALRUS by Rory Fidler



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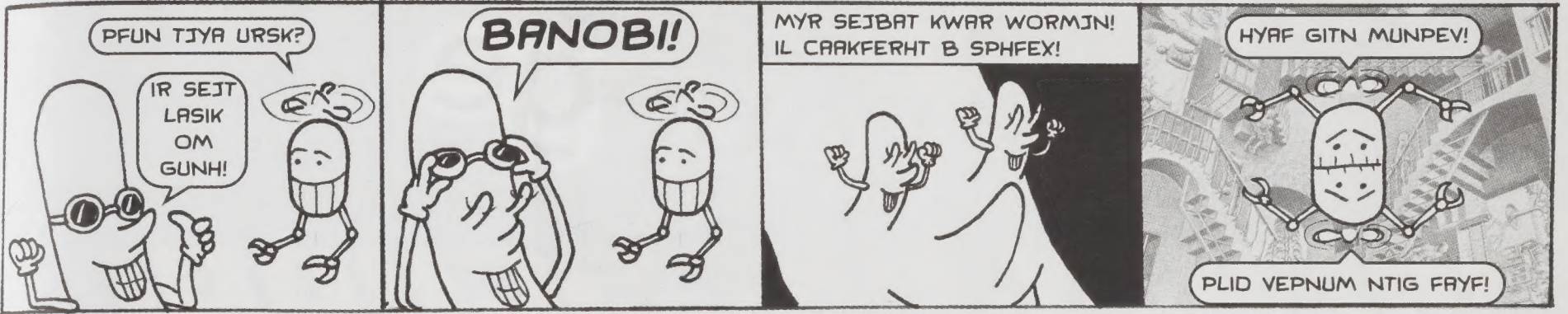




STRANGE DEADFELLOWS by Antony Ta



RUT-RUT & MEEBLO by Mike Kendrick



CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please go to [www.campusclassifieds.ca](http://www.campusclassifieds.ca)

FOR RENT

Looking for a place to live? Check out [www.rentingspaces.ca](http://www.rentingspaces.ca), the student housing registry. Free to search and free for students to post roommate listings!

WANTED

Tutor needed for Photoshop Elements 4 for Mac. 1-2 hours/week at home or on campus. Email [darren.hudson@shaw.ca](mailto:darren.hudson@shaw.ca)

SERVICES

Sort of like a giving tree without the tree: [Letterwhiz.com](http://Letterwhiz.com).

EMPLOYMENT -PART TIME

Personal care aide required for male quadriplegic. Weekend position, 1-3 weekends per month. Weekday position, 1 week on, one week off (perfect for part-time student) Both positions are Semi-flexible hours, plenty of time off available during the day. No experience required, will train. Drivers licence required, own car an asset. Contact Mark @ [mholitzki@shaw.ca](mailto:mholitzki@shaw.ca) to apply or for more information  
Gymnastics, diving & swimming instructors

wanted ASAP Fun learning environment for children in sport programs at Kinsmen Centre offered evenings & Saturday mornings. Superior wages, contact Taunya 780-444-7300 or send resume to [swimgym@telusplanet.net](mailto:swimgym@telusplanet.net)

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PT Weekend Personal Care Aide needed for 25/F Quad, NE area, close to transit. AM/PM shifts \$65/shift or \$16.25/hr, Call Robin (RAPS) 425-5450 or email resume [jmh6@shaw.ca](mailto:jmh6@shaw.ca)

Great winter part time jobs. Edmonton Ski Club, Conveniently close to down town, is looking for: ski/snowboard instructors, rental shop personnel, customer service representatives, lift operators 780-465-0852 or send resume to [Skiclub@telusplanet.net](mailto:Skiclub@telusplanet.net)

Free shows & get paid! Usher at Myer Horowitz Theatre SUB, U of A. Variety of shifts available in October. Apply [elise.armour@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:elise.armour@su.ualberta.ca)

50% off food eaten on shift break! Short order cook needed at Deweys, N Powerplant, U of A. Mon - Fri 10am-4pm. [jerry.daley@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:jerry.daley@su.ualberta.ca)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Musicians: Want to play with a great group of

people? Nova Musica is an adult amateur orchestra dedicated to playing classical and modern orchestral music. Tuesday rehearsals once a week, performances in December and June. Vacancies in strings, bassoon, percussion, low brass. Contact Laverne 780 462-7061.

Volunteers needed to teach English as a Second Language to adult newcomers. Downtown, classroom teaching, 2-3 hours/wk. Lesson resources provided. Ongoing training opportunities. Gain teaching experience and meet people from around the world. Contact CCI-LEX at 780-944-0792 or [lexprogram@cci-lex.ca](mailto:lexprogram@cci-lex.ca)



Got the time?

Why not volunteer for the Gateway?

Section meetings start next week, where you can learn the tricks of the writing trade, refine your illustration skills, or even snap some snazzy photos.

THE GATEWAY  
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News: Fridays at 3pm  
A&E: Thursdays at 5pm  
Photo: Fridays at 4pm  
Opinion: Thursdays at 4pm  
Sports: Tuesdays at 4pm  
Illustrators: Wednesdays at 5:30pm



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